

**DEVON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
Partnership Board**

30 September 2009

Present:-

Mrs Sally Foxhall (Independent Chair) (attended for items 1-8)

Mrs Caroline Rae (DSP Development Officer) (attended for items 1-8)

Supt. Stuart Lander (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary) (attended for items 1-8)

Mr Trevor Smale (Dartmoor National Park Authority) (attended for items 1-8)

Mr Tim Jones (Devon Economic Partnership) (attended for items 1-8)

Mr Paul Shand (GOSW) (attended for items 1-8)

Councillor Adrian Fullam (Exeter City Council) (attended for items 1-8)

Councillor Alan Connett (Teignbridge District Council) (attended for items 1-8)

Ms Sue Rook Devon Strategic Partnership Resource Hub Project Manager (attended for items 1-8)

Mrs Julie Richards, LAA Development Officer (attended for items 1-8)

Dr Ed Moffatt (Faith Sector) (attended for items 1-8)

Mr Paul Gompertz (Environment Devon) (attended for items 1-8)

Mr Mark Goodman (Devon Consortium) (attended for items 1-8)

Councillor Peter Hare-Scott (Mid Devon District Council) (attended for items 1-8)

Councillor John Tucker (South Hams District Council and West Devon District Council) (attended for items 1-8)

Councillor Des Brailey (North Devon District Council) (attended for items 1-8)

Dr David Radford (Devon PCT) (attended for items 1-8)

Councillor John Hart (Devon County Council) (attended for items 1-8)

Mr Phil Norrey (Devon County Council) (attended for items 1-8)

Mr Ian Thompson, SWRDA (attended for items 1-8)

Also in attendance

Steve Jackson HCA (item 3)

Mary Ridgway DSHG (item 3)

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Apologies

Apologies received from;

Mr John Bunting (Devon Consortium) (replaced by Mr Mark Goodman)

Councillor Nick Way, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority (new representative replacing Cllr Anne Fry)
Councillor James McInnes (West Devon Borough Council)
Mr John Peart (LSC)

2 Minutes and Matters Arising

(a) Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2009 be signed as a correct record

(b) Matters Arising

(i) Peninsular Domestic Violence and Abuse Model

RESOLVED that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Partnership Board

(ii) Engagement Model and Duty to Involve

RESOLVED that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Partnership Board

3 Housing – the Single Conversation

Delegates received a presentation from Mr Steve Jackson from the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) and Mary Ridgway (Devon Strategic Housing Group) on 'The Single Conversation' in relation to Housing Provision.

The presentation focussed upon the Single Conversation as the most important business process. Delegates noted that the HCA were committed to a 'place based' approach, the importance of appropriate infrastructure and that this method of working allowed the bridging of national and local targets to achieve local vision through a shared investment agreement (called a local investment plan). It was important that all LA's and other relevant partners were engaged and took a leadership role to allow integrated strategy and delivery to occur.

Furthermore, the presentation covered the main aspects of the single conversation process, the proposed programme of engagement, the Single Conversation areas, the scope of the plan and the challenges that it presented.

Mary Ridgway added detail about the current position in Devon, the opportunities for this process (and documentation) to be used for lobbying and also how the Partnership Board might assist the process and also be kept informed.

Delegates discussed the following issues;

- That the RDA believed the joined up approach, both in terms of planning and investment, was the right approach, but requested clarification on the contracts side and what expectations were;
- That it was important for the DSP Partnership Board to have overall control of the process, but stressed the important of testing and challenging at all key stages;
- How the private sector, and indeed voluntary sector, might be involved and engaged;
- Whether there was any indication of further guidelines becoming available, certainly in terms of resources and bidding;

- Clarification that investment plans would be collated into a regional plan and then a prioritisation process would undoubtedly occur;
- Concern that this was a huge task and delivery might be difficult in current market conditions; and
- That Devon had a better chance of both success and funding with all parties working together, towards a shared goal.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the presentation be noted and guests thanked for their attendance;
- (b) that a further report be brought to the January 2010 meeting of the Devon Strategic Partnership Board (30 minute slot);
- (c) that delegates be reminded to encourage their elected members to attend the affordable housing conference taking place in Buckfast Abbey on 16 October 2009; Mary Ridgway (mary.ridgway@southhams.gov.uk) is the point of contact for this and
- (d) that delegates be advised on how and where the £20m currently allocated to Devon has been prioritised, allocated or used.

4 Report from the Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board

The Board received the minutes from the DSP Delivery Board from 8 September 2009 and considered the issues that had been discussed.

Mr Norrey advised delegates that Chief Superintendent Jo Tennant was resigning as Chair of the Delivery Board at the next meeting and that a replacement would be sought. There had also been feedback from Mr Green (Audit Commission) with a generally good report expected for CAA with some improvement shown since July and evidence of appropriate plans being in place and capacity to improve.

Other issues discussed included the LAA performance report (item 4a) and where support was required, the Performance Management Framework (item 4b), the terms of reference for the Performance and Resources Sub Group (PRSG), Audit of Resources (item 5), resourcing Voluntary and Community Sector representation, the draft annual review of Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Transport Plan 3 and updates from other tables of Devon Strategic Partnership.

Delegates discussed;

- The DSP's role in response to the recession. The document 'when it comes to the crunch' recognised a key role for LSP's, therefore requiring the DSP to take a more challenging role and questioning the impact of some of the initiatives;
- The Delivery Board's view that the Partnership Board needed to take a stronger leadership role and become more actively engaged.
- The potential danger of red flags, in terms of the messages they send out;
- That there was a new initiative from central Government called 'Total Place' that was being piloted in several areas nationally; the concept is to look at total public spend in an area and to see how working together can improve outcomes if flexibilities are given over spend. SW Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme has now allocated £250k to Devon (inc Torbay and Plymouth) over two years to pilot some Total Place work.

RESOLVED

- (a) that thanks to Ch Supt Jo Tennant be placed on record for her excellent work as Chair of the Delivery Board;
- (b) that the Partnership Board considered its leadership role and how this might be enhanced; and
- (c) that the Partnership Board would receive a report (with recommendations), from a Delivery Board sub-group, which will propose some research on the Devon 'Total Place' initiative.

4a. Local Area Agreement Performance Report

The Board considered a report on current LAA performance and also an update on proposed future performance and resource management arrangements. This had been requested by the Board and gave a summary across the seven strategy themes and an update on the three cross cutting themes.

Delegates were circulated with the terms of reference for the DSP Performance and Resources Sub Group. This included the group's role and remit, method of operation and relationships with other parts of the overall Devon Strategic Partnership. The first meeting was due to take place on 12 October 2009.

Delegates discussed;

- Why, on some targets, there was very little narrative or explanation for the performance;
- That further explanation be provided on NI73 and also LAA 12 where members felt there was a lack of explanation and / or progress.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the progress against all 38 LAA priorities be noted;
- (b) that the future arrangements for performance management of the LAA and the proposed direction of travel be endorsed; and
- (c) the terms of reference for the Performance and Resources Sub Group be agreed.

4b. Performance Management Framework

The Board considered a report on the draft Performance Management Framework. The Audit Commission had advised, following a review of the Partnership, that an overarching framework was required. The document had a dual purpose of outlining a framework and acting as a handbook for those using it. The framework balanced data and performance with professional judgement and set out Outcomes Based Accountability as one of a package of models to drive performance. The Delivery Board had considered the report and had approved it as an excellent piece of work.

Delegates discussed;

- Examples of Outcomes Based Accountability and where this had worked in practice;
- How information sharing would operate under this framework;
- How the 'statistics lag' might be addressed to allow up to date information to be received.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Performance Management Framework be endorsed; and
- (b) that a future report be received on Outcomes Based Accountability

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Audit of Resources

Delegates received a report on the Audit of Resources for delivery of the LAA and the report explored the financial arrangements for the LAA and presented points of discussion to consider the next stage of development of the DSP. This included opening the debate on opportunities for greater alignment and collaboration to mitigate the impact of tightening public finance.

Whilst it was noted that there was significant co-operation and co-ordination, there was still some way to go in terms of fully integrated delivery and strategic and resource alignment. There was some evidence of partners starting to align some funding streams to the LAA, but little evidence of larger mainstream funding being aligned to support delivery of the LAA.

Delegates noted that as well as considering the long-term direction of travel there was a need for the partnership to consider how it might support the short-term objective to develop robust joint processes that will enable greater collaboration.

Delegates discussed;

- that the future direction was focussed upon delivering more for less;
- whether there was evidence of joined up funding improving outcomes or influencing delivery;
- the difficulties with the financial position statement circulated with the report, not taking full account of all funding that was spent in those particular areas e.g. education and raising attainment;
- that the Partnership Board would be asked to select priorities to pilot such work;
- that the faith sector could play a useful role, therefore a wider based view was required;
- how might this be effectively communicated to communities.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Partnership Board review the current arrangements and investment of financial and 'in kind' resources in the delivery of the LAA and consider the future strategic and financial development of the DSP;
- (b) that the Partnership Board request each partner agency and district LSP to review the alignment of their strategic and financial plans with the Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA priorities and to influence further strategic and resource alignment to open up opportunities for greater efficiencies;
- (c) that the work of the Performance and Resources Sub Group, to explore and advise on the development of financial management arrangements and to oversee capacity building for joint delivery through the development of a Blueprint for the Resource Hub, be noted;
- (d) that opportunities for developing greater collaboration through the Total Place initiative be considered as agreed in 4(c) above; and
- (e) that a report on Communications and Communications Strategies be brought to the next meeting (January 2010)

6 Partnership Review

Delegates received an update report on the current Partnership Review. Delegates noted that the Devon Strategic Partnership underwent a comprehensive and lengthy structural review in 2006 in order to make it fit for purpose (when the Local Strategic Partnerships became more focussed on delivery and improving the effectiveness of partnership working).

It was recommended that the current focus on delivery be maintained, but wholesale structural change be avoided and that a review of functionality should be sufficient to help guide future areas for improvement.

It was suggested that member's views be obtained to contribute to the Review. Feedback was sought on effectiveness, areas for improvement and thoughts for the future (including chairmanships).

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Partnership Review progress be noted;
- (b) that delegates be asked to contribute their views over the next two months; and
- (c) that an update on the Partnership Review be brought to the Board (January 2010).

7 Update Paper

Delegates received an update on items of interest to the Board from other parts of the Devon Strategic Partnership. These included;

Domestic Violence and Abuse Peninsula model – this was progressing well and was being developed in order to ensure a joined up response to DV across Devon and Cornwall. An event was being held on 25 November 2009 and a report would come to the Partnership Board in January (see minute 2(b)(i))

Equality Strategy and Scrutiny Group (ESSG) was working hard with all LAA leads to ensure that the whole LAA (and wider DSP) had an effective Equality Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA). Revised terms of reference and a work programme had been agreed.

Migrant Workers – Devon received its full bid for 2009/10 of £456,000 and as a result the DSP Migrant Worker task Group was finalising its delivery plan.

Devon Strategic Partnership conference - Plans were underway for the event to be held at County Hall on 3rd December.

Sustainable Community Strategy review – delegates noted that the first annual review of the 2008-18 Sustainable Community Strategy was nearly complete and would be circulated to members once finished.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

8. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on 28 January 2010 @ 2.00pm at County Hall, Exeter

It was noted that delegates might like to give some thought to future meeting cycles and feedback any suggestions.

Note: Devon Strategic Partnership Conference takes place on 3rd December 2009.

The meeting started at 9.30pm and finished at 12.10pm