

Devon Futures Group Decision and Action Log

Date: 25 April 2007

Present: Steve Noyes (Met Office) Chair, Paul Sadler (Environment Agency), Phil Collins (Natural England), Ian Hutchcroft (DCC & member, Devon Sustainable Energy Partnership), Tim Jones (Devon Economic Partnership), Sue Smith (DCC), Jay Talbot (Chief Executive, Community Council of Devon, representing VCS), Caroline Rae (Development Officer, Devon Strategic Partnership), Sue Craythorne (DCC) Nicola Channon (notes)

Apologies: Edward Chorlton (DCC), Ian Hobbs (DCC)

No.	Decision or Action or Message	Who will Action?	Who will Communicate?	When?	Action Completed?
1	<p><u>Action log from meeting on 14 March 2007</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The action notes were accepted as an accurate record and all the actions had been completed. 				
2	<p><u>Updated terms of reference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The revised terms of reference were agreed by the Group. ▪ It was agreed that Marion Playle should be asked to join the group. ▪ It was also agreed that Theresa Butcher would be approached to join the group. ▪ It was noted that should another group become involved in matters that are being covered by the Futures Group, this information should be passed to the Delivery Board through the Devon Futures Group. In such an event, members are asked to raise matters ahead of the meeting of the group. 	<p>NC NC</p> <p>All</p>		<p>ASAP</p>	<p>Awaiting a response</p>
3	<p><u>Climate change and its impact on all aspects of Devon life</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Papers on climate change and its impact were introduced by Ian Hutchcroft and Paul Sadler. ▪ It was noted in particular that there is a proposed carbon reduction target of 20% by 2010. There was discussion as to whether or not this target was sufficiently challenging and that it was possible that the DSP should aim higher. ▪ It was also noted that the proposed action plan to achieve a 20% reduction in carbon assumed that transport emissions would not increase. It was agreed that a more robust approach might be taken towards the transport emissions since transport is predicted to increase. ▪ The need for various agencies to work together to encourage changes in behaviour was also agreed, and that a more concerted approach, linking initiatives, would have a greater effect. 				

- The Community Council perspective was that there is a lot of scepticism about climate change which environmental activists can increase rather than counter. Therefore it was considered important to make sure that the message is right and that an incremental approach is adopted, particularly with the aim of influencing communities to adopt more carbon efficient strategies.
- From a commercial perspective it was reported that there is a general view and that any attempt to control transport is anti-competitive.
- It was noted that the response of the Delivery Board to the carbon reduction paper was an acceptance that climate change is significant and that it will be taken into consideration when the themes in the Community Strategy are agreed.
- The Group discussed what the long term impact of climate change would be on the housing stock in Devon. It noted that little is being done to ensure that building designs take account of a significantly warmer future climate so as to avoid the need to use energy to cool houses in the future during summer months when temperatures rise, or whether affordable housing which is using cheaper builder products, will be well placed to cope with the increasing likelihood of storms.
- It was agreed that in terms of Devon's carbon emissions, it would be helpful if all partners in the DSP became 'green employers' and developed their own green travel plans.
- It was also agreed that transport and accessibility would form the main agenda item for the next meeting of the group. This item would discuss the impact of national and regional policy decisions on transport (for example, post office closures, and the removal of medical centres), the introduction of technology, and an assessment of the current position of carbon emissions from transport in Devon. The discussion will hope to be informed by the view from BT in respect of technology, and by the BBC lead on Plant Devon who will both be invited to the meeting.
- The need to communicate clearly with young people about climate change and what they can do to help reduce CO₂ emissions was also agreed, as it was recognised that changes to householder behaviour are often as a result of 'pester power'.
- It was agreed that the following points should be passed to the Delivery Board:
 - The group is supportive of the initiative to reduce carbon reduction and to address the challenges of climate change
 - That a 20% reduction in carbon emissions on 1990 figures by 2010 is not stretching enough for Devon and that the DSP should

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Jones
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consider whether it can commit to a higher figure, which will need the support of all the partners.

- To enhance the possibility of reaching a higher target, there should be more focus on transport and accessibility, and this would be the focus of the next meeting of the Futures Group.
- That the DSP will need to think 30 years ahead to ensure that planning and infrastructure decisions made now are appropriate for the likely climate in Devon in the future.
- Any future developments will have to go hand in hand with coordinated communication strategy that links all the partners in concerted action. Any such strategy would need to include schools.
- That all DSP partners should be encouraged to develop green transport plans, to make staff aware of climate change, and to develop carbon management plans.
- A future meeting will consider all aspects of adaptation to climate change including infrastructure, agriculture, and tourism.

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The next meeting

- The next meeting will be on 12 July at the Met Office.
- The formal meeting will start at 1700 – 1830
- For anyone who would like a tour of the Met Office prior to the meeting, this will start at 1630.
- Dates for future meetings will be canvassed prior to the next meeting

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