

Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-18 Review 2009

1) Introduction and scope

Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-18 was published at the end of July 2008. It outlines the vision, priorities and outcomes for Devon that will underpin partnership working in the county for the next ten years. The Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching plan for improving the quality of life of everyone in Devon and is owned by the Devon Strategic Partnership. It is the long term vision for Devon with key priorities and outcomes for the next ten years. We wish to periodically review delivery against the priorities, check their continued relevance and consider factors that could influence the Sustainable Community Strategy in the future. This review looks only at the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities and outcomes, their continued relevance and whether delivery is happening. A review of the effectiveness of the partnership is being done separately.

2) A reminder – how did we get to the Sustainable Community Strategy

a) What is a Sustainable Community Strategy and why do we have one?

In 2006, with the publication of its White Paper, the Govt started to put in place a statutory duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy. In any given local authority area, the Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching plan for promoting and improving the well-being of the area.¹ The role of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to set out the strategic vision for a place. It provides a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult cross-cutting issues such as the economic future of an area, social exclusion and climate change. Building these issues into the community's vision in an integrated way is at the heart of creating sustainable development at a local level.² In 2007, as our first 2004 Community Strategy was due for complete refresh, it was timely for the Devon Strategic Partnership to develop with all partners a new Sustainable Community Strategy for the next 10 years.

b) How did we get to Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-11?

Development of the Sustainable Community Strategy followed a robust process, which included evaluation of the 2004 Community Strategy; developing a comprehensive on line evidence base; undertaking widespread consultation involving over 3,500 people; developing an agreed vision to underpin the new strategy and prioritisation of those issues to be taken forward. The resultant strategy included a vision, 3 cross cutting themes and 7 priorities:

- i) **Vision:** We want Devon to be England's greenest county with strong local communities that are prosperous and welcoming with an excellent quality of life and a sustainable future.
- ii) **Cross cutting themes:** We must:
 - (1) Value diversity, using equality of opportunity for everyone as a guiding principle.
 - (2) Improve accessibility to the services and opportunities people want and need, taking into account demographic change.
 - (3) Address the challenges and seize the opportunities of climate change, and reduce our impact on the environment.
- iii) **Priorities:** We want to improve the quality of life for everyone in Devon by...
 - (1) Creating the conditions to enable Devon to have a strong and growing economy, ensuring maximum opportunities are available for everyone to contribute and benefit from it.
 - (2) Supporting our County's world class natural environment, our built environment and cultural heritage to improve the look and feel of the places where we live
 - (3) Promoting health and personal wellbeing for all so that people are as healthy as possible.
 - (4) Ensuring the availability and balance of appropriate housing
 - (5) Tackling behaviour that intimidates hurts or offends people in Devon.
 - (6) Working to ensure strong, prosperous and inclusive communities with a sustainable and vibrant future.

¹ From CLG's Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance

² Strong and Prosperous Communities Govt White Paper November 2006

- (7) Inspiring our County's young people to achieve their best and supporting them in tackling the issues that concern them most.

3) The Local Area Agreement as delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy - how does it fit?

The statutory guidance states: "the LAA is...a shorter-term delivery mechanism for the Sustainable Community Strategy."³ When negotiating the 2008-11 Local Area Agreement, Devon was keen to maximise links to the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement is expressed under the Sustainable Community Strategy themes. However the structure of the Local Area Agreement with its use of national as well as local indicators, including some mandatory ones, means that the agreement reached with gov't included some targets from the National Indicator Set that had no flexibility to account for local variations in Devon. An exercise has been completed in order to assess how well the LAA fits with the Sustainable Community Strategy. Overall it shows that the Local Area Agreement *priorities* all fit well with the Sustainable Community Strategy themes, however the *targets* that sit below these do not all align closely with the priorities. In addition because at the time of agreement of the LAA it was deemed important that *all* key strands of work should be included in the agreement, Devon has 38 priorities in its 2008-11 Local Area Agreement; in some instances these are proving challenging to deliver equally in times of reducing budgets. The Devon Local Area Agreement performance reports include a composite RAG (red, amber, green) rating including professional overview of the priority so that overall performance can be considered rather than just a reliance on less than perfect indicators. It is likely that a future partnership delivery plan/Local Area Agreement will be more locally focussed with fewer priorities.

- 4) Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes – the story one year on.** Appendix A considers each of the Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes in turn and gives an overview of performance, examples of activity, and highlights any areas that may need further attention in the future. There is so much activity happening in Devon that supports the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes that this report does not seek to be comprehensive, but offers a sample of work that is underway. The review shows that overall a lot of work is being carried out that supports the Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes and their outcomes and that Local Area Agreement performance is generally good. Most importantly, a system is being refined that ensures that both performance and risks are monitored and managed by the Devon Strategic Partnership to maximise performance and minimise risk.

- 5) The relevance of the Sustainable Community Strategy themes – influencing factors.** The Sustainable Community Strategy is a ten year strategy; inevitably the world changes over the course of a decade and one of the roles of the annual review is to note the areas where the Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes may have become out of kilter with public opinion in Devon or statistical fact. However, as stated above the Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching strategy for the area, with many strategies nestled beneath it. If major changes are made too often to the strategy it would be difficult to implement the sometimes long term actions that are needed to improve quality of life for Devon's residents. This review has considered some key influencing factors to test the relevance of the priority themes.

- a) Place survey.** Associated with the introduction of the National Indicator Set (NIS), the place survey is a nationally set questionnaire delivered in Devon to 21,000 residents. The first survey carried out in autumn 2008 collected data that will be used as a baseline for some of the NIS. The data that is relevant to the Sustainable Community Strategy demonstrates the continuing relevance of the priority themes. The only change of note in this regard is that Anti Social Behaviour has reduced slightly in people's perception of issues of importance; it is however still of concern, and not supported by all other consultations.
- b) Devon futures.** Devon Futures have met regularly to consider the possible, probable and preferred future of Devon in 2038, hearing 'evidence' from experts in the fields of climate change, energy, and housing amongst others. Their findings, which they brought to Devon Strategic Partnership in December 2009, and have published in a booklet entitled 'Think Before You Do Anything', will help shape those decisions we make over the next few years that could influence what Devon will be like in 30 years' time. The evidence that they have to date strongly supports many of the Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes, in

³ From CLG's Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance

particular around the cross cutting themes of equality, climate change, and demographic change.

- c) **Other consultations**, including the Wavelength consultation of the Exeter Vision (its SCS) in Exeter, have been completed this year. They are referred to under the priority theme sections below, but generally support the continuing relevance of Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy.
- d) **Statistical work** gathered over the year has added weight to the Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes, in particular economy, with the recent downturn.
- e) **Economic factors**. 2009 has seen a major economic downturn in all sectors. This has impacted on the whole of the UK including Devon.
- f) **Regulatory Assessment**. 2009 saw the end of CPA and the introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessment. The Area Assessment published in December 2009 looked in some detail at the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement and how it met the needs of people in Devon. It concluded:

"Partners work well together in a partnership called the Devon Strategic Partnership. The Partnership has developed a ten year plan to address Devon's issues. The Partnership is well managed and receives good and relevant information. It has agreed an ambitious local area agreement – a set of future targets agreed by Devon partners and government – that shows clear commitment by all partners to long term improvement" (Audit Commission Area Assessment)

Further information about each theme is shown in Appendix A below.

6) **Conclusions**

There is a huge and varied amount of activity happening in Devon that supports the Sustainable Community Strategy, both in partnership and by individual DSP partners; much of it is innovative and could be transferable if resources allow. The 2008-11 Local Area Agreement is the first 3 year agreement that will help deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy and the 'fit' is good – the Local Area Agreement priorities correlate well with the Sustainable Community Strategy priority themes and outcomes, although some of the targets correlate less well. Performance and risk management of the Local Area Agreement is being refined constantly and will help to ensure the Sustainable Community Strategy is achieved. The majority of the Local Area Agreement priorities are performing well, with a number exceeding target; issues of underperformance, many of which are attributable to the economic downturn, are being addressed.

The priority themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy are still relevant, and the influencing factors considered support their continued inclusion. The cross cutting themes appear to be gaining in importance and work over the next year to embed these throughout the Devon Strategic Partnership will be key. Two aspects of work have been prominent, but are not brought out clearly in the Sustainable Community Strategy. These are demographic change, which forms part of the accessibility cross cutting theme, and transport, which is implicit in accessibility and many of the priority themes. It is recommended that a watch be kept on these two issues and consideration be given at the next annual review as to whether they need to be given more prominence.

As the Sustainable Community Strategy continues in its role as overarching strategy for the area, DSP partners may wish to re-visit their strategic plans to ensure they are visibly aligned both strategically and financially with the Sustainable Community Strategy; by doing this, much of the activity that currently supports the Sustainable Community Strategy but is not recorded as such could be harnessed to more effectively demonstrate the improved outcomes for people in Devon.

This review concludes that the Sustainable Community Strategy is still fit for purpose.

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December 2009

Appendix A: Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities Each of the themes below is considered in terms of performance, Audit Commission verdict in the Area assessment, risk/gaps, continuing relevance, and activity. It would be impracticable to list all activity that is happening under each theme, so this section highlights examples of activity to give an idea of the types and breadth of work happening in Devon that helps deliver the outcomes.

1) Priority One: Environment

Supporting our County's world class natural environment, our built environment and cultural heritage to improve the look and feel of the places where we live

Outcomes - by 2018, measurable improvements will have been made in the following areas:

- The waste produced in Devon has been reduced so that the reliance on landfill has decreased, the need to process waste has reduced, recycling of all types has increased, and the impact on the environment of the waste produced in the County is minimised.
- The natural environment of Devon has been sustained and continues to be a priority for all those involved in planning for the future. The quality of our built environment and public spaces has been maintained, and steps have been taken to enhance those areas that need further work.
- Devon has reduced its carbon emissions, has incorporated the necessary adaptations to manage the effects of climate change, in particular flooding, into new buildings, roads and infrastructure, is adapting existing structures and is monitoring what else can be done to ensure that wherever possible the effects of climate change are mitigated.
- Opportunities have been taken to promote participation in and contribution to activities to support Devon's cultural heritage, arts initiatives have been supported and Devon's rich heritage has been strengthened.

a) Local Area Agreement performance: generally good. 5 green, 8 amber, 0 red.

b) Area Assessment (Audit Commission): *Green flag - Working with local people to tackle climate change.* "The partnership of district and county councils with environmental organisations and community groups is working well with local people towards a vision of Devon becoming "England's greenest county". The partnership recycles a high percentage of household waste and keeps waste sent to landfill sites low. It has an advanced approach to measuring and reducing the carbon footprint of the area. Partners are also helping local people and businesses to reduce energy consumption. More people in Devon than the average nationally are satisfied with the county as a place to live. Devon has 7 green flag parks and 11 blue flag beaches and 6 quality coast awards. The area is clean and tidy. It looks after public rights of way to make it easier for people to walk, ride or cycle."

c) Gaps in activity/risks:

- i) Commercial waste: some initiatives happening, but lack of funds to prioritise currently.
- ii) Culture: a lot of activity happening, but there is a need to ensure there is regional commitment to supporting cultural activity in Devon via the regional strategy
- iii) Geographical variations caused by variation in planning restrictions, availability of capital funding

d) Continued relevance of theme: work being undertaken by Devon Futures, part of the Devon Strategic Partnership, who have looked at what Devon will be like in 30 years' time, will endorse the relevance of this theme, particularly the need to address climate change and be aware of the impact on the environment. There is a lot of importance placed by partners and Govt on transport, especially as Devon is a rural area; when developing the Sustainable Community Strategy there was much debate about whether transport should appear in its own right, or be implicitly included as now within other themes, particularly accessibility, strong and inclusive communities and climate change. It is recommended that a watching brief be taken to see whether it needs to be included at a future point.

e) Examples of activity supporting the theme:

- i) **Waste** Sustained public awareness and information campaign – Don't Let Devon Go To Waste; Love Food, Hate Waste <http://www.recycledevon.org/lovefood/index.html>
Investigation of potential for energy from waste [link to C reduction and climate change X cutting agenda] http://www.devon.gov.uk/waste_disposal.htm
- ii) **Natural and Built Environment Sustained/Enhancement etc**

- (1) DCC historic environment service is in the process of putting the record onto GIS for ease of access and understanding;
- (2) Role and Action Plans prepared for: historic environment; sustainable tourism; biodiversity; landscape; maritime environment;
- (3) Adoption of 5 AONB management plans;
- (4) BBC Breathing Spaces campaign creating making places for nature where people live <http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/>;
- (5) programme of urban enhancement and public realm/urban design work see Exmouth Strand project http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/planning-system/urban_design/exmouthstrand.htm
- (6) Map of soils vulnerability to erosion for Devon as part of LAA2
- (7) South Hams District Council, Devon County Council and Dartmoor National Park have collaborated to produce a guidance leaflet on how to go about developing footpaths or other green ways. To be published on line and also we have sent it to all Parish and Town Clerks in South Hams
- (8) Interactive map and leaflet for Green Infrastructure and Public Spaces completed <http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/greeninfrastructure.htm>

iii) **Cultural Activities**

- (1) Jurassic Coast WHS Arts Programme <http://www.jurassiccoast.com/362/category/arts-programme-217.html>;
- (2) Dance in Devon 2009 Festival <http://www.danceindevon.org.uk/dance/page.asp?id=11> ;
- (3) Team Devon's 2012 Action Plan (launched July 09) planning the cultural and sporting legacy in Devon of the 2012 Olympics <http://download.southwestrda.org.uk/file.asp?File=/investment-promotion/general/Team-Devon-Action-Plan.pdf> ;
- (4) Devon Open Studios <http://www.devonartistnetwork.co.uk/AboutDOS> ;
- (5) Exeter Museum Development Project <http://www.exeter.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3034&listid=10050>;
- (6) Sing Up Devon, a two-year project to increase singing activities in local communities, by ensuring that every primary school-aged child has the opportunity to experience high quality singing as part of their everyday lives both in school and in the wider community. A national evaluation of the Devon Music Service scheme has described the service as providing 'outstanding quality'.
- (7) The Exeter Cultural Partnership has recently been established, working towards delivery of the Vision SCS "City of Culture", aiming to bring towards providers and supporters of culture, co-ordinate activity and infrastructure projects within the city and acting as the delivery body for People, Places and Spaces.

iv) **Climate Change and carbon reduction** see Cross Cutting Theme 3 below

2) **Priority Two: Strong and Inclusive Communities**

Working to ensure strong, prosperous and inclusive communities with a sustainable and vibrant future

Outcomes - by 2018, measurable improvements will have been made in the following areas:

- People in Devon report that they have good opportunities to influence decision making which affects them
- Everyone has access to services and facilities whatever their particular needs or home area
- People who belong to vulnerable groups report that they are fairly treated by public and private service providers and within their communities
- The challenges presented by demographic change in Devon are being addressed and the opportunities taken
- Our communities, including villages and smaller settlements have a continuing and vibrant role in people's lives.

a) **Local Area Agreement performance:** generally good. 2 green, 1 amber.

b) **Area Assessment (Audit Commission):** "Many people are happy living in Devon and have a strong sense of belonging to their local neighbourhood. Partners like councils, police and community groups have a good understanding of their area. They are improving how they gather and use information to identify how the population is changing. Partners then

provide help to meet people's needs such as minority ethnic groups. They also raise awareness of the prejudice faced by some people – such as gypsies and travellers. They have been successful in reducing prejudice and hate crime and supporting victims. Partners help people who might feel isolated, including older people from ethnic minorities. They are also improving how they involve minority and disadvantaged groups in decisions about service that affect them. For example councils consult people with disabilities about the design of public buildings and spaces. Partners encourage local people to do volunteer work in local communities”

c) Gaps in activity/risks:

- i) Much more needs to be done to improve and co-ordinate community engagement across the county. However, there are projects underway to develop a community engagement protocol for the DSP. All local authorities in Devon are developing a business case for collaborative working on community engagement as part of the ‘integrated Devon’ proposals.
- ii) Parish and Town Plans are still being undertaken and some still want to start, others have completed and need help with implementing, need to show bottom up evidence is used in Sustainable Community Strategy. Lack of resources to provide enough support to villages and towns in actually implementing their community plans fully.
- iii) Place Survey result 2008 – 27.8 % respondents report that they can influence local decision making, around the regional and national averages, but there is a lot of potential for this to improve. When results are broken down by town area, a number of towns show percentages below 25% or even below 20% - e.g. Seaton, Dartmouth, and Ilfracombe. Looked at by District, there is considerable room for improvement in Torridge, North Devon and East Devon.

d) Continued relevance of theme: It is clear from evidence gathered that whilst much progress has been made in this area, there is still a great deal still to do. Demographic change will continue to present challenges over the next 30 years, and Devon Futures is likely to include demographic change as a key issue in its report to Devon Strategic Partnership later in the year. Engagement and empowerment continue to be high on Govt agendas, and the place survey shows there is much room for improvement.

e) Examples of activity supporting the theme:

- i) DCC and the PCT are each developing community engagement strategies; Devon Strategic Partnership is developing a community engagement protocol.
- ii) Exeter CVS are running a 2 year programme funded by CLG to identify and train individuals who wish to participate in key roles in their communities – e.g. as school governors, community representatives etc – ‘civic participation’ in the Place Survey. This is only happening in Exeter, in partnership with the City Council and County Council
- iii) There is continuing take up of community led planning, with new parish plans still being started and older ones being refreshed. 16 new plans were started in 2008-09, despite the withdrawal of Defra funding.
- iv) Place survey – 31.1% respondents report that they do volunteer work regularly. This is very much above national and regional averages. Projects with CVS/Volunteer Bureaux in the past year and with Devon Consortium in the future have helped/ will help this. Team Devon’s action plan for the legacy of 2012 includes promoting volunteering. <http://download.southwestrda.org.uk/file.asp?File=/investment-promotion/general/Team-Devon-Action-Plan.pdf>
- v) Place Survey result – 81.2% respondents say that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. This above the SW average. However it is not clear whether this is a true measure of social cohesion or inter-cultural harmony. Anecdotal evidence and crime statistics would suggest that racially motivated harassment and anti social behaviour are issues which still need action.
- vi) Communities In Action database – supports town and parish planning and allows a strategic overview of community raised issues.
- vii) Development and roll out of Exeter Neighbourhood Engagement action plan, working on culture change in organisations and online participation.
- viii) Beacon Heath Community Project – empowering individuals to take pride in their area and public spaces. Exeter Community initiatives
- ix) Planet Rainbow Project – supporting mixed heritage (mixed race, ethnic or faith) families to access services that normally they would feel excluded from. Run by Exeter Community Initiatives

- x) CARD PORCH – social integration of ex-offenders Ex-offender employment project (training & mentoring ex-offenders into employment). Exeter Community Initiatives
- xi) Transitions – mentoring support for long term unemployed, offenders, vulnerable women and people in supported accommodation in order that they become more socially active and build relationships. Run by Exeter Community Initiatives
- xii) Renewal of listed places of worship - STOKE CANON, St Mary's: Major reordering has resulted in areas that can accommodate traditional and modern services and can be used for community activities, including concerts, health sessions for the elderly, coffee mornings, history groups, activity sessions for young children and by the adjacent school for assemblies and dance/drama lessons.
- xiii) In 2008 West Devon LSP successfully achieved their target of extending outreach surgeries to more villages in the borough. They now have over 20 agencies, organisations and community groups working together under the umbrella of West Devon Connect with the common goal of improving access to services for West Devon residents Current work includes plans to extend multi-agency outreach events to more rural communities, to promote venues throughout the borough that offer public internet access, and to work with partners in promoting transport options available throughout the borough

3) Priority Three: Economy

Creating the conditions to enable Devon to have a strong and growing economy, and ensuring maximum opportunities are available for everyone to contribute to and benefit from it

Outcomes - by 2018, measurable improvements will have been made in the following areas:

- Sustained investment will have been achieved and as a result business infrastructure and communications, including the transport infrastructure, have improved
- Worklessness and economic exclusion have been reduced, the employment rate and wage levels of the disadvantaged have increased, and more affordable housing is available
- Co-ordinated strategies are in place to unlock the economic potential of the most disadvantaged communities, and positive progress has been made as a result
- Skills have been developed and harnessed, in particular greater investment has been made in workforce development plans, barriers to learning opportunities have been reduced, graduates have been attracted and retained and, as a result, the economy is more competitive.
- Business start-up and growth has increased as a result of the promotion of enterprise, improved productivity, promotion of innovation and development of the knowledge economy.

a) Local Area Agreement performance: generally good. 3 green, 5 amber, 1 red/amber 1 red.

b) Area Assessment (Audit Commission): “The economy of Devon is improving steadily and plans are in place to continue this progress. The current worldwide recession has slowed growth, particularly in North Devon. The partnership of councils and business organisations works well to attract money and jobs into the area. It is working to create jobs in businesses that will do well in the future. But it needs to reduce duplication and ensure better value for money from economic projects. Councils have responded quickly and effectively to the recession and have given good support to businesses and people in need. They are deciding and paying housing benefits more quickly and give advice to people in debt. But, some long-standing challenges remain. There are differences in wealth between the north and south of the county. Large parts of Devon are rural, and some people living in small towns and villages have low incomes. The Partnership has plans to address these issues”

c) Gaps in activity/risks:

- i) The downturn in economy
- ii) Financial inclusion work; much activity has delivered benefits (over £30m see below) but not yet improving indicators due to size of problem. Lots of unmet need – child poverty, carers, learning disability, fuel poverty, complex needs, health inequalities etc. Challenge is to redesign systems to meet need within existing resources.
- iii) Being able to offer support in our most rural communities, Rural Torridge for example, is challenging. (JobCentrePlus)

- d) Continued relevance of theme:** The downturn in the economy has affected every aspect of life in Devon and the areas covered by this theme are even more relevant.
- e) Examples of activity supporting the theme:**
- i) The Weathering the Storm conference held by Devon County Council in February 2009 focussed on how the recession is affecting the County, and discussed how we can bring all Devon's communities through it as safely and securely as possible identified the need for increased Benefits/ Tax Credits income maximisation advice for small businesses and their employees.
 - ii) The public sector is playing an active part in helping local people and businesses ride through the stormy financial climate. For Example, Devon County Council has allocated £500,000 to support a number of initiatives to respond to the recession. District Councils have been taking initiatives; for example, Teignbridge held a 'credit crunch commission', Exeter City Council has provided additional business support with Business Link and North Devon Council has increased support for third sector bodies as well as businesses.
 - iii) Financial Inclusion: Outcomes for children with disabilities, older people, financial services (credit union etc). circa £30m raised now but worth much more cumulatively. This includes 1742 families with children with special needs who have been referred to one project run by Devon Welfare Rights Unit with funding from Devon County Council; of those 891 families have gained an increase in benefits, to the value of £3.8m (annualised) with a further £0.47million lump sum arrears payments claimed.
 - iv) Funding has been made available by Devon County Council to enable Devon Welfare Rights Unit, a Specialist Benefits service of Citizens Advice to run a rapid response, dedicated advice and information service aimed at self employed and employers/employees in small businesses (under 20 employees).
 - v) Local Employment Partnerships involve Jobcentre Plus and local businesses working together. The employer makes an agreement with Jobcentre Plus to work with us to adapt their recruitment practices to help these customers back into work. Local Employment Partnerships has just been extended to help victims of the economic downturn who have become unemployed. Some of these customers are eligible for Work Trials and Pre-employment training and some customers will also attract the recruitment subsidy payable to employers. Devon District is currently working with 1145 employers who are on our LEP portfolio. In the last year Devon has helped approximately 1000 customers back into work and a growing number are finding jobs in the public sector.
 - vi) In the 2008 / 09 training programme the Devon Tourism Skills Network (DTSN) has supported 62 businesses through Green Awareness and 'Reduce Your Energy Costs' training sessions. This builds on the programme delivered in previous years and continues to encourage tourism businesses across the county to become accredited in the Green Tourism Business Scheme. Devon County Council is also in the process of developing a Green Tourism Business Network for the county, to support and further develop those tourism businesses that have shown a commitment to sustainability, and are either accredited in a scheme – such as GTBS or David Bellamy – or working towards this.
 - vii) West Devon Duchy Square centre for creativity the new build project in Princetown now includes 16 workspace units for high quality arts and crafts enterprises. The aim of the project is to regenerate the area by supporting local businesses across key priority sectors, including creative industries, farming, food and tourism. The art gallery will attract high quality original art work and will also provide a tourist attraction giving local creative practitioners an outlet to promote and sell their work, helping to boost the local economy.
 - viii) Getting more local food into public sector services in Devon. Devon County Council is leading on a programme of work that includes a series of 3 workshops aimed at producers, suppliers and buyers, as well as influencing policy and practice within some of Devon's key public sector organisations. The current focus of our work is in our schools and care homes and a partnership project with North Devon Healthcare Trust working with the Barnstaple hospital and the community hospitals.
 - ix) Low profitability, productivity and wage rates had been found by much research to be major issues for rural SMEs. Devon Renaissance commissioned the Rural Innovation Project to help address these issues by identifying the barriers and drivers of innovation for rural SMEs in North Devon, Torridge and West Devon.

- x) Campaigns to encourage staff to buy locally, especially around Christmas period and promotion of Farmers Markets. (S Hams LSP)
- xi) Encourage businesses to sign up to The Skills Pledge. All SHSP partners signed up to the Pledge (South Hams LSP).
- xii) National policy and the Regional Economic Recovery Plan offer support for the newly unemployed but also continue to focus on those customers furthest from work and therefore endorses the aims of the SCS, A Growing Economy to reduce worklessness in priority areas. (JobCentrePlus)
- xiii) New national initiatives and incentives offer additional help to disadvantaged customers on working age benefits e.g. recruitment subsidy when employers take on someone over 6 months unemployed and Future Jobs Fund for young people approaching 12 months unemployed (JCP)
- xiv) LAA24 focuses on the 13 priority communities in the Devon Economic Strategy and through the Devon Worklessness Group, partners are influenced to use new sources of funding to work together and develop projects that support / align with mainstream provision and build additional capacity to help priority customers in priority communities move into work (e.g. bespoke projects developed by Community Council for Devon, Devon Mental Health employment group)

4) Priority Four: Housing

Ensuring the availability and balance of appropriate housing

Outcomes - by 2018, measurable improvements will have been made in the following areas:

- Everyone will have access to housing that is of good quality, is affordable and in an environment where people wish to live. Devon will have sufficient development in the pipeline to respond to projected growth
 - Improve housing options for the homeless and vulnerable clients
- a) Local Area Agreement performance:** At risk. 0 green, 1 amber, 2 red.
- b) Area Assessment (Audit Commission):** “Public service partners, such as councils and housing providers have worked with developers to provide 2700 new houses last year. This is fewer than in the past but the credit crunch has slowed down house building. Partners doubled the number of affordable homes delivered last year to nearly 700. Councils are identifying new opportunities to build homes but are not meeting government targets and local demand. Devon councils have improved some services for homeless people. They have prevented many people from becoming homeless and halved the numbers of people living in temporary accommodation. But in some parts of the county people stay too long in temporary accommodation and bed and breakfasts. The Partnership is improving some services for people from different walks of life. It is working with gypsies and travellers to meet their needs. It also helps many older people to live in their own homes. But it has not yet done enough to meet the needs of disabled people and older people who need extra care housing.”
- c) Gaps in activity/risks:**
- i) Economic slowdown has greatly affected this theme, creating a significant downturn in the housing market. This is demonstrated by:
 - (1) NI 155 - Slow down starting to show in completions.
 - (2) National House Completion Reports for SW show a 20% decrease in starts on site for last quarter of 08/09 compared with 07/08
Delivery of affordable housing in settlements under 3,000 population - additional units largely due to off the shelf purchase from private developers. Pipeline indicates potential problems for 2009/10.
 - ii) **Potential issues that the Sustainable Community Strategy may need to address in future include:**
 - (1) the need for a better evidence base for monitoring the state of the market
 - (2) more options around tenure mix such as intermediate rent
 - (3) how we are promoting Government intermediate housing solutions/products to key workers
 - (4) how we engage with Developers
 - (5) as there is going to be significant reductions in investment available how do we collectively rise to the challenge of reduced public expenditure and yet growing demand for housing, what is the public sectors response to that? How will we work with partners, how will partners use what land, assets and investment they

- have got, to what extent are Devon's LA co-operating in bids around the new opportunities for Council to bid direct to build Council Housing
- (6) in terms of overall housing what are we doing to manage risks arising from further delays in the regional spatial strategy (RSS)
 - (7) Existing Stock: One of the big gaps in SCS is mention of investment into housing existing stock, particularly as funding has been significantly cut/redirected into new build to support the market
 - (8) Housing for Older People: Not much stress on this in current SCS. An OP Housing Strategy and Extra Care Housing Strategy are being developed, but there may need to be a change of emphasis in current SCS.
 - (9) Gypsy and Travellers: more emphasis and an increase in joint activity may be required.
- d) Continued relevance of theme:** Affordable housing still comes out in the top three issues raised in most public consultations e.g. the Place survey and Exeter's Wavelength survey.
- e) Examples of activity supporting the theme:**
- i) Housing options. Lots of good work on this topic, some examples (via Devon Strategic Housing Group) include:
 - (1) Rural Scheme, District and County Money from 2nd homes. 5 village homes, let to local people. Ecobuild
 - (2) Victoria Street Barnstaple. District Council land at less than market value and DC joint funding created 6 homes for people with Learning Disabilities.
 - (3) John Smale Road redevelopment of old fashioned PRC flats to a new development of homes. Some DC funding. Includes units for disabled people
 - (4) STEPs Housing Project – increasing the supply of affordable housing for vulnerable groups in Exeter (Exeter Community Initiatives)
 - ii) IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR recruited a private rented sector coordinator to undertake a feasibility study into a Devon wide social letting agency and lead on the development, coordination and implementation of one or more sub regional social lettings agencies
 - iii) DEVON HOME CHOICE this seeks to develop and implement a Devonwide Choice Based Letting scheme (Devon Home Choice). The project is on target and is due to go live from December 2009.
 - iv) ENHANCED HOUSING OPTIONS Devon received funding from the CLG to develop enhanced housing options; the funding has been used to recruit the private rented sector coordinator, provide a dedicated mortgage arrears advice line and to up skill front line housing advice staff in money advice.
 - v) QUALITY STANDARD FRAMEWORK this unique tool promotes excellence and provides a means of assuring and developing consistency to support cross boundary working in Devon. Through a process of peer reviews and assessment, the authorities have been able to engage in meaningful joint working that has promoted the sharing of good practice and ideas at all levels.
 - vi) RECESSION FUNDING Devon has also received a pot of money from the CLG to help with the impact of the recession; the plan is to use this funding to raise awareness of existing services in order to help prevent homelessness.

5) Priority Five: Inspiring Young People

Inspiring our County's young people to achieve their best and supporting them in tackling the issues that concern them most

Outcomes - by 2018, measurable improvements will have been made in the following areas:

- All children and young people to have access to good education 0 - 19 and they feel supported and encouraged to take advantage of it.
- We have a variety of education, employment and training routes that give young people real choice as they approach adulthood so that they have the chance to achieve economic wellbeing in Devon
- Effective prevention processes are in place so that any problems that children, young people or families have are prevented from escalating unnecessarily
- The gap between the lowest and highest achieving children and young people has been narrowed with an overall rise in achievement. The achievements of children and young people in Devon are celebrated

- a) **Local Area Agreement performance:** At risk. 0 green, 0 amber, 1 red.
- b) **Area Assessment (Audit Commission):** “Organisations involved in providing services for young people work well together. They listen well to what young people have to say. But they could do more to find out the opinions of young people with special educational needs or disabilities. The quality of primary and secondary schools is near the national average. The gap has widened between how well pupils from low income families do compared with the rest. The overall quality of sixth form and further education provision is similar to national levels. Support overall for young people in the care of the County Council is good. Provision for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities needs further improvements. There are long delays in making special provision for children with serious behaviour problems. Day care for children over 16 who are no longer in education has been reduced and parents think it is inadequate.”
- c) **Gaps in activity/risks:**
- i) NI 63 - is at risk of not reaching the target. Analysis and plans have been provided to the DSP Delivery Board Chair following the meeting on 29th April.
NI 112 and NI 117 - We are unlikely to meet these two LAA indicators. These were known to be challenging when selected and they have targets that were set centrally separately to this exercise. They remain good indicators and were chosen for that purpose.
- d) **Continued relevance of theme:** This theme is underpinned by the Children’s and Young People’s Plan which is reviewed in detail regularly for continued relevance.
- e) **Examples of activity supporting the theme:** There is a comprehensive detailing of activity in the recent review of the CYPP (insert link)
- i) Development and roll out of Children’s Centres across the county is on track and praised nationally with 43 to be fully functioning by 2010 and already working everywhere;
 - ii) The full offer of extended services in and around schools is in place in 82% of schools with thirteen ‘full offer’ local learning communities (a great improvement of the 34% April 2008);
 - iii) The Integrated Youth Support Service has been established and some of the outcomes can be seen in reduced first time offending.
 - iv) The Ilfracombe project is intended to use the LAA to add value to the county wide programme of the CYPP. It is exploring how we can transform outcomes for the community by really thinking child, thinking family, thinking community and what this means from the perspective of the family. It is also to apply learning from national research in a holistic approach to a contained geographical area. Much learning has been achieved so far but lack of capacity has limited progress. Some resource has now been identified and more progress is anticipated but the initial shortage will lengthen the timescales.
 - v) Cultural events in places of worship - A major exhibition took place in Exeter Cathedral during the commemorations of 1100 years of Christianity in Devon, celebrating the art work of children from 110 primary and secondary schools. The final exhibition contained over two hundred large square acrylic canvas paintings, eleven fabric banners, column paintings by school groups or individual students and numerous life-sized human figure sculptures. The children were given the opportunity to work alongside local artists Julia Pope and Tony Minnion, encouraging individual interpretation and the money raised, through the sale of work, is going to support educational activities across the world

6) **Priority Six: Health and Wellbeing**

Promoting health and personal wellbeing for all so that people are as healthy as possible
Outcomes - by 2018, measurable improvements will have been made in the following areas:

- Health is as good as it can be - maximising prevention and early intervention
 - Care is as local as possible - and as specialised as necessary
 - The best possible treatment is being given - and is continuously improving
 - The right support is available for people with complex needs
 - The most effective use is being made of all our resources - for maximum impact
- a) **Local Area Agreement performance:** Mixed. 2 green, 2 amber, 1 red.
- b) **Area Assessment (Audit Commission):** “People’s health in Devon is good. But health and wellbeing varies according to where they live. People in the better off places live 14 years longer than those in poorer neighbourhoods. Teenage pregnancies are low in Devon

overall but high in some places such as Exeter. Alcohol is a problem in the north of the county. Plans have been developed to tackle these problems. More money is being spent on better sexual health services and on drug and alcohol misuse. But more could be achieved for better value for money. NHS Devon is not yet doing enough to work jointly with councils, police and other organisations to save money and improve health. Councils and NHS Devon promote healthy living and help reduce childhood obesity. The rate of obesity at ages 6 and 11 is well below the national average and continues to fall. Services for the increasing numbers of older people who need health or social care are good. Health and social services help people leave hospital and return to independent living in their homes.”

c) Examples of activity supporting the theme:

- i) Community Mentoring: Community mentoring is a free service for people aged 50 or over who feel they have had some kind of downturn in their lives perhaps because of bereavement, disability or illness. It is for people who have a loss of confidence, are lonely or isolated. The service also helps people whose first language is not English through the Sahara project. Nearly 10,000 people have benefited from the service; nearly 400 were from BME groups.
 - (1) Nearly 450 groups and activities have been set up in local community settings
 - (2) a reduction in depression for 54% of cases,
 - (3) reduced risk of falling for 14%,
 - (4) improved financial position / review for 19% of cases,
 - (5) aversion of suicide for 8% of cases
 - (6) 21% of cases took up voluntary work.

- ii) Complex Care Teams: The service is delivered by the voluntary sector through the ‘Link2’ and ‘Time for Life’ services.
 - (1) Known as Complex Care Teams, health & social care professionals, together with the voluntary sector, are working together in 23 local communities. The teams are linked to GOP practices to provide people with expert advice and the best resources to ensure delivery of the right care, at the right time, in the right place. Reduction in admissions to residential care
 - (2) A reduction in emergency non-elective hospital admissions by 465 people
 - (3) Increased numbers of people helped to live at home
- iii) Health & Wellbeing Checks
 - (1) For people with Learning Disabilities – annual health checks are now routinely undertaken in most GP practices across Devon; leading to an increase in provision of prevention and early intervention services and an overall improvement in health & wellbeing.
 - (2) For Carers. Under the My Life My Choice (POPPS) pilot, carer support workers worked with 5 GP practice staff to increase the number of carers registered and offer them health and wellbeing checks, advice and support. On the success of this pilot, Devon has been awarded national demonstrator status, together with funding; to extend this service to a further 35 GP practices – covering 40% of our population. 85 of 107 GP practices trained to provide annual health checks to people with LD
 - (3) 18% of people on the GP register with a learning disability have had an annual health check (end March 09)
 - (4) 50% increase in carers registered in the 5 GP practices (657 carers registered in total)
 - (5) Increase in membership of the Carers Link (total 289 carer’s members from the 5 GP practices.
- iv) Foot care We developed a foot care service provided by the voluntary sector, supported by NHS podiatrists. The service is delivered via 10 schemes (including a scheme for BME communities), from 12 sites, but can also be delivered at an individual’s own home. The services has delivered improved outcomes to users including reduced stress to carers, people feel less likely to fall, reduced discomfort, increased social inclusion and an overall improved feeling of wellbeing. Over 1200 older people have benefited from the ongoing use of the foot care service
- v) Improving Alcohol Services
 - (1) Improved intelligence on prevalence of alcohol related conditions and profiling of repeat attendees.
 - (2) Alcohol nurse liaison post has begun work at the RD&E, Exeter. NI 39 Rate of hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm

- (3) Target: 1793 in 2010/11 with current performance 1384 in 2008/09
- vi) Reducing Teenage Pregnancy
- (1) Improved data collection about the needs of young people and teenage parents
 - (2) Implement a communications strategy
 - (3) Develop and implement a young people's Contraceptive Services and Sexual Health commissioning plan
 - (4) Develop, in partnership with young people a Devon wide approach to Sex and Relationships Education
 - (5) Improve access to and appropriateness of services for vulnerable people NI112 Change in fewer than 18 conception rate. Current position: 32.5 per 1000 15 – 17 yr old females (2007) which is
 - (6) 1.4% reduction from baseline
- vii) Managing Healthy Weight
- (1) Promoting healthy eating, physical activity and emotional health in schools through the Healthy Schools Plus programme
 - (2) Delivering healthy eating and cooking skills to families within Children's Centres
 - (3) Delivering the Walking for Health Programme across the County
 - (4) Promoting Active Travel Plans with employers
 - (5) Expanding the Exeter Cycle Demonstration Project to other localities
 - (6) Commissioning new health treatments for people who are obese NI 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation: 24.6 % (2007/08) exceeds target. Some variations between districts.
 - (7) NI56 Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6: 14.2% (2008) exceeds target of 16.4%
- viii) Planning for Health
- (1) scoping the need for housing to identify the health impacts of planned new builds up to 2026
 - (2) opportunities to influence the design of the built environment to improve health identified; includes health provision, green and safe spaces, physical activity promotion through walking and cycling
 - (3) formalised process with strategic planners at County and District level and Public Health and Strategic Commissioning Directorates with identified lead officers
 - (4) NI 187 "Tackling fuel poverty - percentage of vulnerable households with SAP of less than 35: 15.2% by 2010/11 and percentage of vulnerable households with SAP of 65 or more": 18.29% by 2010/11
- ix) The Pact's HR dept advised in May 2009 that a variety of new discounts have been set up for all staff employed by the Trust, including saving money on gym membership, entrance to a family attraction or tickets to the theatre.
- x) Contribution to physical activity through children cycling to school due to support for School Travel Plans

7) Priority Six: Safer Devon

Tackling behaviour that intimidates, hurts or offends people in Devon

Outcomes - by 2018, measurable improvements will have been made in the following areas:

- The causes of behaviour that intimidates, hurts or offends have been addressed
- a) **Local Area Agreement performance:** excellent. 7 green, 0 amber, 0 red.
- b) **Area Assessment (Audit Commission): Green flag - Domestic Violence**
 "Partners like the County Council, district councils, police and other organisations work well to make Devon a safe place to live. Crime across Devon has fallen by 9%. People feel safer too. They are less worried about crime and anti-social behaviour than in recent years. Partners are undertaking excellent work in helping to tackle domestic abuse. Also they have been successful at organising activities aimed at keeping young people out of trouble. The number of young people who offend for the first time is well below the national average. Partners are tackling under-age drinking and drug and alcohol abuse. They have also succeeded in reducing night time violence in many towns and the city of Exeter. Road safety is improving. There were fewer casualties on Devon's roads last year. Partners have had good results in reducing the number of young people who go missing from home."
- c) **Gaps in activity/risks:**
- i) Concern of levels of satisfaction with police from victims of hate crime as an indicator
- d) **Examples of activity supporting the theme:**

- i) Road Casualty Reduction Partnership provides strategic direction to local activities delivered by agencies working in partnership. The impressive reduction in road casualties in 2008 was greater than expected and may have been partly influenced by increased fuel costs and the resulting drop in journeys and vehicle speeds. The 2008 figures have put Devon back on course to achieve its stretched target of a 55% reduction against the base year. To build on this downward trend a Road Casualty Reduction Partnership delivery plan has been drafted for 2009-2-11. Partners comprise: Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance Service, Highways Agency, Driving Standards Agency, Devon PCT, Safety Camera Programme, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council.
- ii) First Time Entrants to the youth justice system rate dropped substantially in Q1 of 08/09 and then remained flat for the rest of the year. Target 5% reduction therefore exceeded by further 15.3%, based on estimated PNC figures. The launch of two new Youth Inclusion Programmes in Exeter and Teignmouth this year and the current review of existing projects' targeting should lead to further improvement in 09/10.
- iii) Prejudice & hate crime Overall, progress is on target. Our priority over the first year has been to create links and improve channels of communication with vulnerable individuals and communities in order to tackle the core issue of under-reporting of racist, phobic and disablist hate crime. In these initial stages however, our successes have been uneven, both geographically and in terms of strands of diversity
- iv) The ASB Theme Group meets on a regular basis and over the past twelve months has worked towards standardisation of data collection across Devon. The group which comprises ASB Co-ordinators from all seven districts, together with other representatives from agencies that can also impact on this theme, has also identified best practise in terms of interventions.
- v) The development of the Integrated Drug Treatment System in HMP Exeter will improve the management of prisoners but also pose challenges to the treatment system to respond quickly to increased demand.
- vi) Work is progressing to develop a coherent, partnership response to addressing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the evening and night time economy
 - (1) Street Pastors, a national initiative with projects in more than 100 UK towns and cities, send local church community teams out to care, listen and talk with people on town and city streets particularly at night at weekends. Over the last two years the initiative has developed rapidly in Devon. There are currently projects in Ilfracombe, Bideford, Exeter, Exmouth, Totnes and Tiverton (as well as Plymouth and Torbay) and more are planned. Street pastors work in partnership with and are supported by the police. The evidence for tangible benefits arising from the operation of Street Pastors is growing steadily with significant falls in crime in areas where the Street Pastors are working. More than this, however, is the reduction in tension and fear at street level brought about by the Pastors simply being present and available to help.
 - (2) Alcohol misuse is an issue and PCT/DCC have worked in partnership to create a multi-agency strategy which includes an extra £1M investment from Devon Primary Care Trust which will strengthen our approach to sensible drinking and the impact of alcohol on night time disorder, including a communications campaign
- vii) The Exeter Family Intervention Project provides targeted support for families at risk of eviction due to disruptive and anti-social behaviour. It helps families to keep their homes and to break away from anti-social and criminal behaviour. Partners include ECC, DCC, Exeter Community Safety Partnership, Action for Children, police, the PCT and YOT.
- viii) Partners continuing work around PREVENT Community Engagement around anti-terrorism agenda.
- ix) West Devon LSP is working closely with the CDRP with the Community Action Days and is using these as a way of engaging with Children and Young People.

8) Cross Cutting Themes The Sustainable Community Strategy has identified 3 pressing cross cutting themes that must run through all of the work we do. As they were cross cutting they had not been developed in the same way and the 7 themed priorities. However in 2009 it was decided that in order to embed them fully in the work that is being done they needed to have theme leads and delivery plans. Accordingly theme leads were appointed and work is being done to develop and implement delivery plans. The increasing importance of these themes

have been highlighted in particular by the work of Devon Futures that looks at the possible future of Devon in 2038, when demographics, climate change, transport and equality of opportunity are all key aspects that will need to be addressed.

- a) **Cross Cutting theme One:** Value diversity, using equality of opportunity for everyone as a guiding principle
 - b) **Examples of activity supporting the theme:**
 - i) All LAA activity has now had at least an initial screening. Some have had full EINAs. The Equality Strategy an Scrutiny Group monitors these EINAs and provides support and scrutiny to the work associated with them.
 - ii) Migration Impact Fund bid successful to build on current action to support migrant workers.
 - iii) Welcome and Information Pack published initially in Polish and imminently in 7 other languages
 - iv) Open Hearts Open Minds social inclusion e-learning centre, keeping people in touch with essential news, tips & tools to help them to tackle social exclusion.
www.openheartsoopenminds.org.uk
- 9) **Cross Cutting theme Two:** Improve accessibility to the services and opportunities people want and need, taking into account demographic change.
- a) **Examples of activity supporting the theme:** Coordinated work on embedding this cross cutting theme across the Sustainable Community Strategy is at an early stage but there is a high level of initiatives happening already across the county.
 - i) West Devon LSP is hosting an Older Peoples Event in November. This is an information sharing event and 12 agencies on board with stalls already and some are doing presentations and there will be an information pack for all delegates.
 - ii) A highly successful Bideford Taxi Voucher Pilot Scheme that provides demand responsive transport services to targeted groups in the Bideford and Northam Area, to such an extent that the Bideford Bridge Trust is contributing financially to the extension of the scheme. This is a fantastic example of the public sector taking the lead in addressing the needs of the most deprived communities in Devon, showing the benefits such intervention can have to the extent that local community partners work collectively to ensure its longevity and expand the scheme.
- 10) **Cross Cutting theme Three:** Address the challenges and seize the opportunities of climate change, and reduce our impact on the environment
- a) **Examples of activity supporting the theme:** Coordinated work on embedding this cross cutting theme across the Sustainable Community Strategy is at an early stage but there is an extremely high level of initiatives happening already across the county; these are just some examples:
 - i) Funding for the new Newton Abbot Hospital approved by the SHA in March 2007. The hospital's design includes providing each patient with a window view and natural light will be filtered into corridors using special 'light tubes'
 - ii) From the 1st July 2009, Devon's 21 community hospitals are to benefit from an innovative way of recycling. The Trust has become one of the first NHS trusts to sign a recycling contract that segregates waste at source. The contract is with a local social enterprise waste management company, Mid Devon Community Recycling (MDCR).
 - iii) Several organisations have appointed green travel officers /sustainability officers, and introduced discounted bike purchase schemes.
 - iv) The Cycle Exeter Project being awarded extra funding for achievements and progress, and increased cycling levels in Devon with more children and adults cycling to school and work than ever before. 8% reduction in Exeter's air pollution. Devon County Council has won the Transport Local Authority of the Year at the prestigious National Transport Awards; £2m Green Challenge fund for energy efficiency measures in the schools estate
 - v) Innovative partnership with Centre for Energy and Environment at Exeter University to commission research to underpin climate change and energy related work. Currently considering commissions relating to low carbon transport strategy and next iteration of local transport plan. Action through the local transport plan has pegged traffic growth at below national average <http://www.devon.gov.uk/ltpprogressreport08.pdf> [objective 4 target AQ1]
 - vi) Progress on school travel plans:

- vii) Devon record office are working with the community council on a historic weather events record, as part of the latter's climate change work
- viii) Seminar held for Devon Economic Partnership investigating the low carbon economy. Some actions identified for a working group to take forward [Environment Agency; RDA; DCC; Cosmic; Environment Devon] [article](#)
- ix) Faith communities in Devon have increasingly become involved with environmental sustainability and reducing carbon emissions. For example, the Anglican Diocese of Exeter is committed to the national Church of England "Shrinking the Footprint" campaign, with the intention of making sustainable reductions in the Church of England's carbon emissions to 20% of current levels by 2050. This includes reducing carbon from heating and lighting buildings, investing in renewable energies (including Solar photovoltaic panels for electricity generation, Solar water heating, Wind turbines, Biomass heating, Ground source heat pumps), recycling waste from church offices, encouraging bio diversity in churchyards and actively encouraging local communities working towards transition away from fossil fuels.
<http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/index.php>
- x) Joint work between LA's to reduce fuel poverty Devon Warm Zones Partnership; the target for the Devon Warm Zone activity is 11,138 insulation measures within the Devon County Administrative area during the 2 ½ year life of the project. As a rough guide this should equate to 10,125 homes being insulated resulting in CO₂ savings of 8.1 ktonne. To date 915 measures have been installed resulting in an estimated CO₂ saving of 464 Tonnes.