

Designated LAA targets

There are 9 priorities within The World Class Environment Theme and 5 designated LAA targets. These are detailed in the PI table below together with the baseline, annual target, actual performance to date, performance status and improvement. In addition, graphs are included in this performance report to demonstrate the actual performance (continuous green line) against the target (dotted blue line) for each indicator plus District area data where available. Year 3 progress may be slowed due to resourcing issues in some priorities.

End of year 2 reviews

LAA01 Reduce municipal waste arising & landfilled

STATUS: GREEN (Provisional)

Achievements :

- Increased provision of organic waste collections in North Devon, Torridge, East and West Devon. The County Council has provided an In-Vessel Composting(IVC) facility at Deep Moor and access to Holsworthy biogas. Communications Strategies were put in place in partnership with the county and the quality of the collected waste is good. This initiative should result in an increased recycling rate and improved NI193.
- Okehampton schools composting project has made good progress with all the schools provided with composters and workshops. An opening ceremony was held to celebrate the successful working of the Big Hanna composter at Okehampton Secondary School. The ongoing success story lead to a successful bid for further funding to supply 7 more learning communities with composters and composting advice and support. All this work has been implemented in partnership with the district councils and the community sector.
- A number of new initiatives have been implemented to increase recycling including on street recycling bins, branded roadshow exhibition vehicles are now being used across Devon, a schools Green Team celebration event was held with local celebrities and the e-zine has been launched.

Outcomes for local people:

- The school communities have benefited from the schools composting project and further events are planned to invite businesses to take part.
- The communities in North, Torridge, East and West Devon have benefited from an improved recycling and composting collection service which brings equality of service across the majority of the county.
- Roadshows are an excellent means of talking to the public one to one and solving their recycling problems and questions

Value for money:

- Having our own exhibition vehicles is a valuable investment and means ad hoc hire of vehicles will not be required. The vehicles are being shared with the district councils such that a greater number of events can be attended and a greater number of people can be approached.
- The placing of composters in schools is a long term investment which will both reduce waste to landfill and provide an educational tool to generations of school children. With the events planned a wider audience will be informed of the benefits of composting including businesses that it is hoped will make efficiency savings by reducing their waste if they take up composting.

LAA02 Improve the quality, quantity and accessability of public open spaces

STATUS: AMBER

Achievements:

- Investment in Green Infrastructure - Play Facilities with Play Builder and Capital valued at £1.25 million+
- Sharing of Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy Production - strengths / weaknesses
- Developing Countywide GI Strategy Approach

Outcomes for local people:

- Children and families have improved facilities
- Stakeholder benefits and efficiency
- Planning for GI delivery support future facility provision

Value for money:

Framework Contract for Play Provision offers efficiency to Play Builder Projects.

LAA03 Climate change

STATUS: GREEN

Achievements:

- The Weather Impacts Assessment has raised awareness amongst senior managers of Devon's historical vulnerability to severe weather events.
- A group of officers from Devon, Plymouth and Torbay authorities has formed to share information and trouble shoot climate change adaptation within the respective authorities.
- A process for taking forward the remainder of the climate change adaptation project has been developed.

Outcomes for local people:

The County's services have been assessed for their resilience to existing extreme weather. Where vulnerabilities have been identified, mitigating measures will be developed by Directorate Management Teams. This will result in the provision of services to local people that are less frequently interrupted by extremes of weather.

Value for money:

Restoring business operations following interruption from extreme weather costs money. The implementation of the Weather Impacts Assessment's recommendations will reduce the frequency of service interruption and hence costs.

LAA4 Improve business productivity of the renewable energy sector in Devon

STATUS: GREEN

Achievements:

- A grants budget of £450k has been allocated. Partners were instrumental in assisting clients with applications and ensuring deadlines were met. The final round was oversubscribed 5:1 and a scoring process was developed to shortlist applications prior to the decision panel meeting.
- Match funding of £150k was agreed for the Competitiveness vouchers add-on. SW Rural Development Agency are instrumental partners in setting this up with Business Link for delivery over 2010-2013. There has been a delay in delivery until May/June 2010 on the overall programme in terms of vouchers being allocated and currently legal agreements are being drawn up for the Devon element.
- Supplier training: 85 training places delivered during 2009/10. This was under our original target, as take up on some courses was lower than expected. Technical courses were well attended with the management ones less so. Feedback is being used in future course development and bookings. Many cancellations were last minute and appeared to be due to installers not wanting to miss income from installations during a recession, despite having paid for the course. Charging for courses was undertaken for the first time this year and the move from "free" to "heavily subsidised" did not appear to be an issue. Partners worked on developing the course list, finding organisations to deliver them and ensuring quality of courses delivered.

Outcomes for local people:

- The RE4D Grants have been awarded to 49 organisations for 61 installations. 27 have been installed. They are reducing their energy costs and reducing carbon emissions through these installations. Some organisations are able to extend their operating season by switching to renewables. Some installations are also generating income to feed back into communities or improve businesses profit margins. 8 of the organisations are managers of community buildings and the others are businesses or social enterprises/charities.
- The supplier training is for Devon-based installers so all beneficiaries of the increased skills attained are Devon residents or businesses. This up-skilling of suppliers will also improve the experience for Devon residents/organisations acting as renewable energy customers.

Value for money:

Only 1 major change has improved value for money in terms of cost of delivering the programme and this has been moving from free to subsidised training. This enabled to training budget to be stretched further so more courses could be run.

LAA5 Reduce Carbon dioxide emissions**STATUS: AMBER**

In terms of year 2 outputs, a clearer picture will emerge when data is collected from partner authorities and other stakeholders relating to the LAA5 proxy targets [a milestone for Q1 of 2010]

Achievements:

- Agreement by the County Council to pump prime the Cosy Devon partnership with £90K in 2009/10 has resulted in an additional 207 measures being installed to vulnerable households
- The energy monitor loan scheme promoted through libraries
- Reviewing information and 'signage' to climate change information to complement awareness raising activities

Outcomes for local people:

- Additional investment in Cosy Devon has enabled more households to benefit from energy saving measures, reduce household carbon emissions and move vulnerable families out of fuel poverty
- The energy monitor loan scheme has enabled individuals to monitor the consumption of individual household appliances, assisting understanding of energy demand and helping inform consumer choices
- Review of information sources and guidance ensures those seeking assistance have access to the most relevant and up to date sources to assist them

Value for money:

- Saving energy not only reduces carbon but reduces potential household/public sector spend on utilities.
- Joint commissioning of SW Energy & Environment Group research enables economies of scale to be realised and levers in additional resources [SW Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership]

LAA6 Driving business competitiveness and reducing carbon emissions through public sector supply chains**STATUS: GREEN****Achievements:**

- 70 businesses engaged through events, workshops and ongoing support
- 121 support carried out with 30 organisations
- Sustainable procurement advice and workshops for partners

Outcomes for local people:

- Estimated 1843.516 tonnes of CO₂ reductions

- Estimated 1158319 kWh of energy saved
- Estimated 108.5 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill
- Better Understanding between Small Medium Enterprise's and Public Sector. Companies that benefited from the workshop and 121 support have informally reported of a better impression of the public sector bodies as support has been provided rather than simply additional requirements

Value for money:

Cost savings identified at over £700,000, if the recommendations from 121 support with businesses are implemented, this is excellent & above equivalent resource efficiency club approaches (of 1:10). This 1:18 return based on total cost of project highlight supply chain is a highly effective way of reducing environmental impact and saving businesses money, and highlights the power of the Public sector supply chain & the benefit of approaching through LAA.

High carbon and additional environmental savings identified Good scope for innovative solutions to environmental issues identified.

LAA8 Targeted conservation & enhancement of Devon 's biodiversity

STATUS: UNKNOWN

Achievements

- ~ 70 County Wildlife Sites monitored and owner / manager provided with advice during 2009/10. Consistent approach to County Wildlife Site work (monitoring and advice) agreed with partners. Includes a process by which all partners can feed information on County Wildlife Site visits through to Devon Biodiversity Records Centre. Involves DCC, Devon Wildlife Trust, National Parks, AONBs, RSPB, FWAG etc
- Devon Nature Map finalised and profiles developed for all Strategic Nature Areas. Involved working with all Devon districts and Devon Biodiversity Records Centre.
- 18 Parish Biodiversity Audits produced. Involved working with all Devon AONBs and Devon Biodiversity Records Centre.

Outcomes for local people:

- Landowners / manager provided with advice on their County Wildlife Sites and signposted to funding opportunities from Natural England or the Forestry Commission.
- Parishes provided with information on the wildlife resource in their area and potential opportunities for involving the community in wildlife projects. Potential benefits include community cohesion, health and a better understanding and relationship with the local environment.
- Devon Nature Map provides a clear vision for nature conservation work in Devon as well as highlighting wildlife sites and species that need to be protected. This contributes to the high quality of life in Devon.

Value for money:

The new approach to County Wildlife Site visits includes both monitoring and advisory work carried out by Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC). The ability to monitor the site and provide advice in one visit obviously saves time and is therefore cost effective (DBRC were previously unable to give advice to owner/occupiers). The new monitoring form has been developed in order that it is plain English (no latin names!) and can therefore be shared with landowners/manager in order to provide them with an overview of the condition of the site and advice on future management / funding sources. This negates the need to produce a separate form for the landowner and again is cost effective.

LAA12 Increase in cultural activities

STATUS: UNKNOWN

Achievements:

Outcomes for local people:**Value for money:****LAA33 Improve the energy performance of the housing stock and reduce fuel poverty****STATUS: GREEN****Achievements:****Rebranding**

The main vehicle for delivering energy efficiency measures across Devon is the local authority supported scheme Cosy Devon. This was previously known as Devon Warm Zones. All 8 districts and the 2 unitary authorities agreed to rename the scheme to firstly save money (as a franchised payment was made previously) and secondly in order to maximise the uptake of grants by being a recognised, endorsed and one-stop-shop for energy efficiency measures. Along side this a marketing plan was developed and a new website launched with the ability for online referrals. The new brand name was rolled out in January 2010, which has since led to an increase in installation numbers going through the scheme within the last quarter.

Increase in performance

During this last quarter, 844 measures were installed into households, this makes 43% of the total for the entire year. This is largely due to re-branding and the development of the marketing plan.

Marketing plan

A marketing plan was developed alongside a re-branding process, in order to increase uptake and referrals into the Cosy Devon scheme. This then led to a series of marketing activities producing 7 separate mail out campaigns, reaching in excess of 150,000 households across the geographical area of Devon. There were also 2 radio campaigns in Exeter and a series of promotional events across the districts at country shows, shopping centres etc to promote the scheme and give face to face advice.

Outcomes for local people:

- Local people now have a single point of reference to access energy efficiency of grants/assistance and advice.
- Approximately 1627 households have received energy efficiency improvements to their homes, making it warmer and cheaper to heat.
- The scheme uses local installer firms sustaining local jobs.
- The scheme allows a "referral fee" from the sponsorship utility supplier e.on to be paid to local community groups and organisations who refer the public to the scheme, thus allowing these community groups greater sustainability and to reach out to the more vulnerable groups within the community.

Value for money:

LAA33 has no budget, therefore the majority of the activity within this priority has been by making use of available funds such as Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Warm Front. Some funding for measures and marketing has come from the District authorities and the County via LAA5, by using CERT and Warm Front, these funds have been able to maximise the number of households receiving grants and also allows local authorities to target funds to the more vulnerable of householders. In, addition, by working together (with the unitary authorities also) savings have been made by having a single delivering agent (Energy Action Devon) who administer the scheme for local authority level grants and marketing.