

The Role of Partnerships in developing the LAA

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, introduces a duty for Devon County Council and partners to cooperate with each other to agree the targets in the LAA. It is essential that the Devon Strategic Partnership establish a shared approach on which to base discussions.

It is important to recognise that Devon's LAA will be built on existing experience. Devon's LAA will draw on earlier experiences of negotiation of plans and targets, and deliver on them. Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs), Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS), sectoral plans such as the Children and Young People's Plan, existing LAAs, and self assessments and inspections will provide the starting points for developing the new LAA.

The government has identified four elements that local partnerships have to get right:

- **Ensuring the involvement of the whole partnership in developing the story of place.**
- **Using the story of place and local ambitions to shape the whole Local Area Agreement and to identify within it the 'up to 35' priorities.**
- **Involvement of local councillors in defining the story of place, articulating political ambitions, assessing data, agreeing priorities, leading negotiations, providing scrutiny and accountability.**
- **Engaging other local governance structures into the LAA process.**

- **Develop a constructive and productive negotiating relationship with the Government Office South West, and other national public agencies.**

Our strong and ambitious Sustainable Community Strategy, based on extensive engagement locally, agreed by the Devon Strategic Partnership, is fundamental to the success of our LAA.

In Devon, the duty in the Local Government Act 2000 to produce a Community Strategy applies to district and county councils. Although LAAs will be agreed at county level, they will reflect the Community Strategies of districts and counties.

For further details on how to become involved in the LAA process please contact Roland Pyle LAA Development Officer on: 01392 382913 or Email LAA@devon.gov.uk



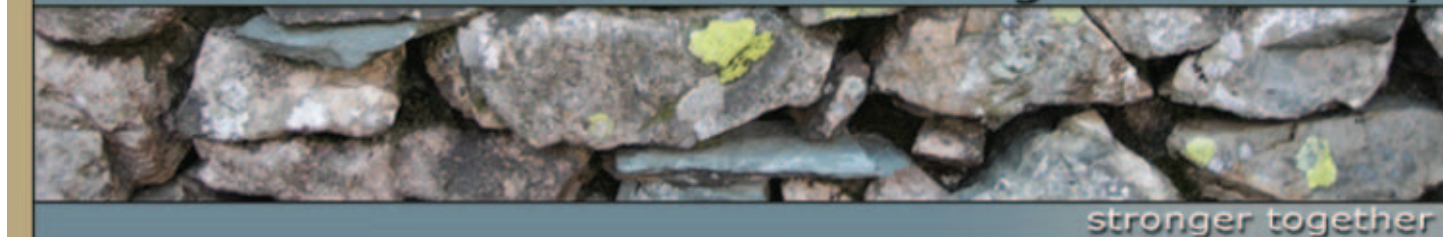
Forthcoming meetings that may influence negotiation of the Devon Local Area Agreement 2008-11

Devon Strategic Partnership - Partnership Board 2008

16th January
16th April
9th July

Devon Strategic Partnership - Delivery Board 2007-2008

Wednesday 6 February
Thursday 6 March
Thursday 3 April
Thursday 1 May
Thursday 5 June
Thursday 3 July



Briefing Note:

January 2008

Devon Local Area Agreement 2008 – 2011

What is the Local Area Agreement?

The Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA) will be a new settlement between central government, local government and its citizens. The Devon LAA 2008-2011 is being negotiated between the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) and central Government. The Government Office for the South West is representing central Government and Devon County Council is the accountable body negotiating on behalf of the Devon Strategic Partnership which is the county wide LSP. The Agreement will recognise that every place is different and will:

- Focus on improvement priorities and innovation.
- Involve local communities in the shaping of their own locality.
- Focus on coordinated actions tailored to local needs.

The LAA will broaden the remit of local government. It allows us to respond to long-term challenges such as:

- Public health.
- Climate change.
- Demographic change.
- Creating strong, prosperous and inclusive communities.
- Economic prosperity.
- Environmental sustainability.

Devon Strategic Partnerships

To respond to these challenges Devon County Council is working in partnership with the DSP. Each LSP draws membership from key agencies across their area, plus representatives of many sectors of the population. Other key players in the DSP include other public service providers such as the District local authorities, Devon and Cornwall Police, the Devon primary care trust, the third sector and the private sector. The Devon Strategic Partnership looks at Devon Wide working and the evidence base that has been collected from part of the Devon Strategic Partnership's work in the development of a new Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon.

For more information on the Devon strategic partnership please visit www.devonsp.org.uk



The Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon

The Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching plan for promoting an improving wellbeing of all those in Devon. The Sustainable Community Strategy is a long-term vision with key priorities for Devon and outcomes planned for the next 10 years.

The Sustainable Community Strategy has a vision for Devon:

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.

Priorities for Devon

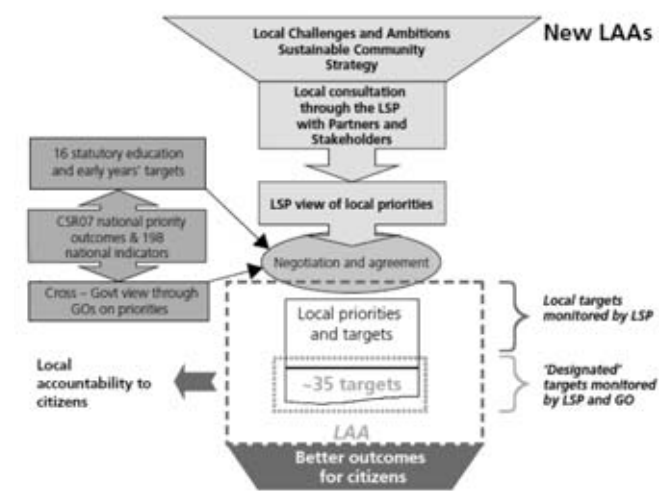
We want to improve the quality of life for everyone in Devon by

- Supporting our county's world class environment, our built environment and cultural heritage to improve the look and feel of the places where we live.
- Working to ensure stronger, prosperous and inclusive communities with a sustainable and vibrant future.
- 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.
- Ensuring the availability and balance of appropriate housing.
- Inspiring our county's young people to achieve their best and supporting them in tackling the issues that concern the most.
- Promoting health and personal well being for all so that people are as healthy as possible.
- Tackling behaviour that intimidates, hurts or offends people in Devon.

Cross cutting themes

- Value diversity, using equality of opportunity for everyone as a guiding principle.
- Improve accessibility to the services and opportunities people want and need, taking into account demographic change.
- Address the challenges and seize the opportunities of climate change, and reduce our impact on the environment.

The LAA 2008-2011 will be the delivery mechanism for the Sustainable Community Strategy, its vision and priorities. The LAA will be an expression of priorities in the local area and the related targets which have been based on agreed evidence. It is the purpose of the LAA to engage elected councillors and the wider network of partners in Devon. This includes a strong local involvement, involvement of the voluntary and community sector and involvement of the business sector.



(Source: CLG, 20/11/07, <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/550738>)

Criteria for selecting Local Area Agreement priorities

In order to sensibly reach agreement on the most appropriate set of targets, Devon County Council will be working through the Devon Strategic Partnership and its thematic partnerships together with District local authorities, LSPs and other key partners to collectively agree a shared set of priorities for the LAA. Devon County Council will then work with individual partner authorities to determine how each target is drafted.

- Priorities will express the Sustainable Community Strategy vision, priorities and cross cutting themes.

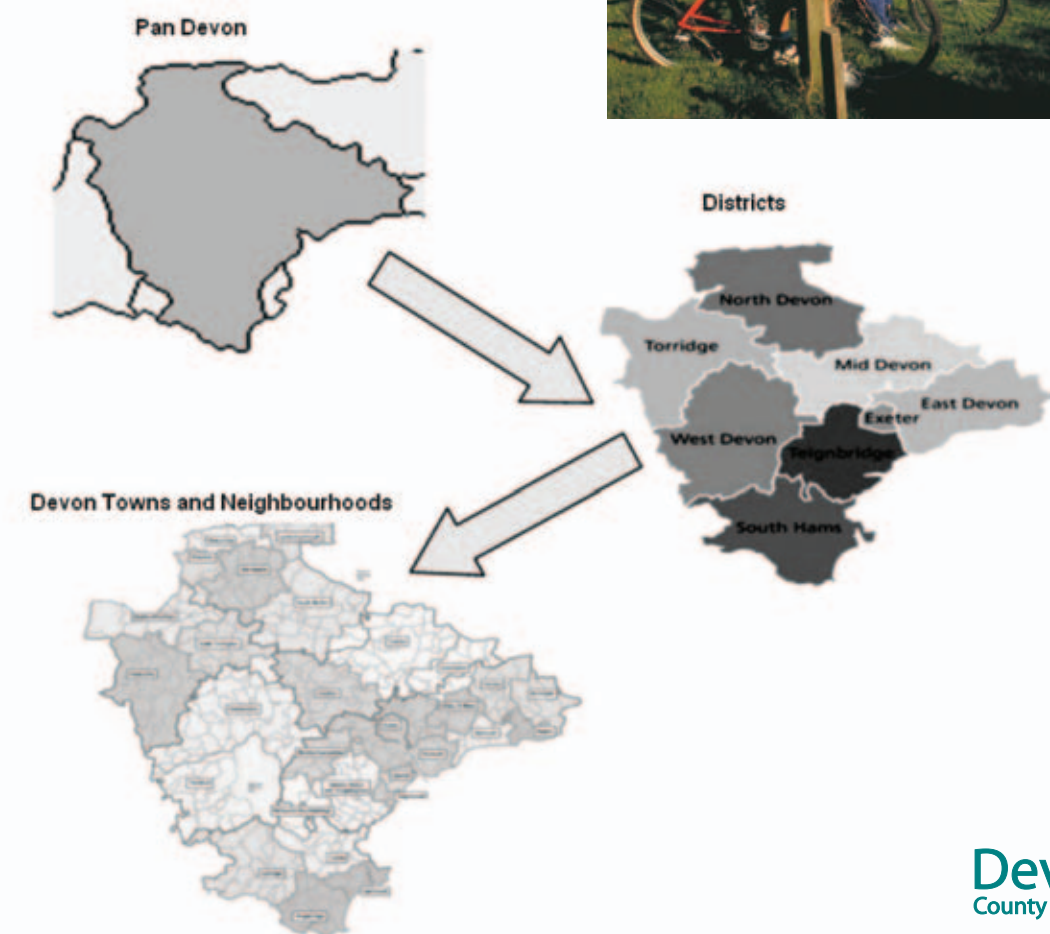
- This approach requires multi agency and partnership working.
- The priorities will focus on prevention and causes.
- Priorities will consider areas and groups in greatest need.
- Priorities will demonstrate creativity, innovation and ambition.
- The priorities will deliver outcomes which are measurable.

To reflect our priorities, targets need to be established for our LAA. To do this we will need to develop a LAA which includes:

- Up to 35 "designated" targets in support of national priorities.
- 16 statutory education and early years targets, set by the end of January 2008 in negotiation with the Department for Children Schools and Families.
- Local targets agreed with local partners and not measured by central government.

Spatial Implementation

Targets will be focused on particular spatial levels or groups, tackling inequalities in outcomes. These will be implemented at different spatial levels.



What are the Challenges in a Local Area Agreement?

Bringing together the multitude of local aims in a single LAA requires significant consultation with stakeholders. Although much work has been done to date, due to the complexities of partnership working these intricate negotiations will take place in within strict time constraints.

Many lessons have been learnt from previous LAAs that have taken place across the country; in particular funding and the level of engagement have been cause for concern. To prevent these issues affecting Devon's 2008 – 2011 LAA, District local authorities and LSPs will be fully involved in the development and formulation of the LAA. This process has already started and those conversations will continue until the LAA is signed off by central government in June 2008.

