

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

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

Devon Strategic Partnership - Strategic Partnership Chairs meeting

3rd January



Devon County Council, County Committee and County Executive Meetings 2008

2nd January	County Executive	8th April	County Executive
4th January	West Devon County Committee	11th April	West Devon County Committee
15th January	County Executive	24th April	Exeter County Committee
5th February	County Executive	30th April	County Executive
6th February	Exeter County Committee	22nd May	County Council
14th February	County Council	27th May	County Executive
26th February	County Executive	9th June	East Devon County Committee
14th March	South Hams County Committee	17th June	County Executive
17th March	Mid-Devon County Committee	18th June	Torrige County Committee
18th March	County Executive	19th June	North Devon County Committee
19th March	Torrige County Committee	20th June	South Hams County Committee
25th March	North Devon County Committee	24th June	Mid-Devon County Committee
27th March	Teignbridge County Committee	26th June	Teignbridge County Committee / Exeter County Committee
31st March	East Devon County Committee		

December 2007

Briefing Note:

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.

Local Strategic Partnerships

To respond to these challenges Devon County Council is working in partnership with each LSP. Each LSP draws membership from key agencies across their area, plus representatives of many sectors of the population. Other key players in a LSP 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. In Devon there are LSPs in each of the eight district/city authorities. At County level, the Devon Strategic Partnership looks at Devon wide working and the evidence base that has been collected forms 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

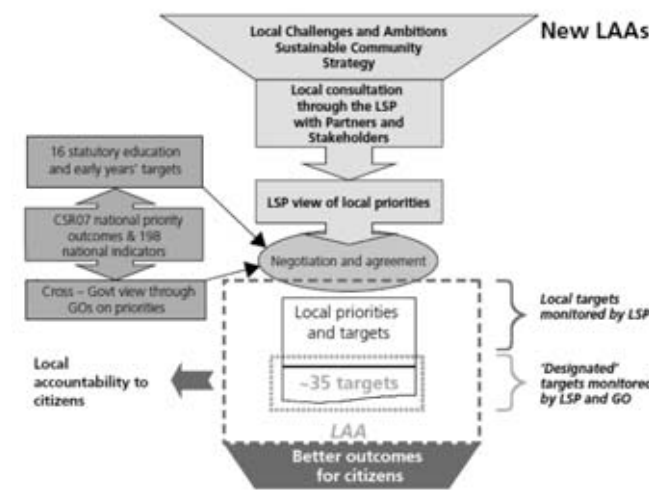
We want to improve the quality of life for everyone in Devon by

- 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.

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

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.

What is the local councillor's role?

- Political leadership and steering of local partnerships.
- Overview and scrutiny of the LAA, and of the input made by partners.
- Ensuring that the council is active as the 'accountable body' for the LAA and the decisions of the LSP.
- Taking the principles of the LAA to the local level, in a language people can understand.

What can councillors do now?

- Identify lessons from the Devon LAA 2005-2008.
- Review the local LSP governance and membership.
- Work towards strengthening thematic LSP sub-partnerships.
- Invest in partner relationships and build on the base of trust.
- Help to update the evidence base for Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Help to strengthen over view and scrutiny across all LSP partners, and track the progress of the LAA.
- Help to introduce LAA principles at their local level.
- Communicate to the public what is happening and why, in a language that people can understand.

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

