

Devon Economic Partnership Executive

Thursday 13th March 2008, 8.30 to 9.30 am Audio Conference

Present

Tim Jones

David Incoll

Tony Skeel

Steve Pitcher

Leanne Crawford (Scribe)

Andrew Lightfoot

Richard Ball

Cathy Doidge

Jen Brogan

Apologies

Carl Budden

Sue Smith

Lynne Del Greco

1.0	Devon Economic Strategy
	<p>The Strategy has been launched. Tim has networked through Devon & Cornwall Business Council and Plymouth Chambers. In terms of members' involvement, it was suggested that something could be done in the clusters and to promote more local business involvement.</p> <p>Action: Letter to be written to Chair of North Devon+ and CDC Plymouth</p> <p>The Strategy has also been sent to the 50 top businesses in the county, and the mini credit card sized version will be issued generally. It was agreed that the DES should be the first point of call in terms of consultations etc to avoid it becoming a static document.</p> <p>A monitoring group had been set up with 10 members, with communications to be electronic in the first instance. This group will be fleshing out the delivery plan. Steve Schlemmer will be taking the Strategy through the University of Plymouth on the DEP's behalf. He had created a plan which is currently under going validation by Jamie Evans (DCC) and Steve will present this at the next Partnership meeting. There have been two additional contributions, one from the university generally in terms of a Business Facing agenda and Professor Michael Totterdol had produced 2 papers on this, and there was a good response from Vaughan Lindsay at Dartington Hall. It was agreed that these initiatives can be used to help drive the Strategy forward.</p> <p>It terms of the LSC, Tony stated that he would be ensures that the main providers see the DES, and that the debate around HE and FE and enterprise agenda has not been fully exploited and this needs to be resolved. It was agreed there is still a large amount of work to be done here. All colleges will be involved and the bottom up approach will be considered alongside the top down approach.</p> <p>Front line organisations will be assisted in formulating delivery through the LAA.</p>
2.0	Local Area Agreement 4th Theme: proposed outcomes and indicators
	Action: Comments on Multi Area Agreements and agenda

	<p>It was agreed that there needs to clarity on who is doing what and where in the LAA process.</p> <p>There will be a 4th Theme meeting on 20th March. Support groups are still working well, including the Worklessness group which will be reported next week. National Indicators had been discussed with GOSW and indications are that there are few economy indicators but several local ones included. It was agreed that GOSW should promote the Devon LAA at the national level.</p> <p>Action: Letter to be issued to Richard Bailey</p> <p>It was stated that the monitoring for the LAA should be linked in with the monitoring arrangements for the DES.</p> <p>Cathy stated that in terms of the environment, the Environment Agency has done a large amount of work around the water framework directive and the economic side of delivery of the directive is coming to the fore. The DES might need some tweaking around this, i.e. rural land use. A full report should be available at the end March.</p> <p>Other issues included coherence around the MAA. It was agreed that progress here can be made by the DEP in the first instance. It was suggested that the 4th Theme group would be the place to discuss this further. Commonalities need to be found with Plymouth and Torbay LAA's.</p> <p>In terms of funding alignment for LAA and RDPE, Ian Piper of the RDA had been looking at issues around funding alignment, and it was agreed that an agenda needs to be set for the DEP. The Local Action Groups have already been encouraged to align with the LAA. It was agreed that this was a specific piece of work and suggested that DRN take this forward.</p>
3.0	Budget
	<p>It was stated that DCC has found £50K to continue to support the DEP. The RDA had asked for greater elaboration of budget in the Operational Plan. The Operational Plan is posted on the website but Andrew was still waiting for confirmation of the funding contribution from the RDA. It was agreed that discussion on this needs to be held before the next DEP meeting.</p>
4.0	Website www.devoneconomy.co.uk
	<p>The site is live but information is still being added. It was agreed that strong encouragement needs to be made on providing links. It was stated that site is easy to navigate but slow.</p> <p>Action: All partners to look at site and suggest additional links where appropriate</p>
5.0	Strategic Economic Partnership's meeting
	<p>A presentation had been given by Chris Wormald on how Whitehall sees issues of SNR and highlighted how Londoncentric the government's economic strategy is. A number of agendas on devolution and decentralisation had come out of this.</p> <p>There were other issues raised around Action Planning and scope to have greater focus on the knowledge economy with University "spinouts";</p>

	<p>business start ups and sustained growth; and number of women starting in business.</p> <p>The RDA and GOSW have recognised that the interface between the local level and their strategic level. There is also a role for DEP to support this in terms of the LAA and provision of an evidence base.</p>
6.0	<p>Research ideas</p> <p>A way forward needs to be agreed in terms of the priorities for research to build on existing evidence. It was suggested that there is a small working group with no external support initially to analyse resources. This could be a one off meeting.</p> <p>Research could be made into growth of small businesses and improvement of business productivity. Innovation research should also include business resilience.</p> <p>Cathy volunteered to sit on group.</p> <p>Action: Andrew to organise</p>
7.0	<p>Consultations</p> <p><i>Business Simplification</i> – response to the Regional Transitional Plan to be made by 9th April</p> <p>Action: partners to consider how to respond to this to provide Devon wide response. Comments to Andrew.</p> <p><i>Matthew Taylor review</i> – his wife has written a paper on the Cornwall Housing Crisis. Comments on paper – B.14 the LDA, changes have slowed things down; B.16 opposition to new housing, resistance to new developments due to density of developments.</p> <p><i>PPS4</i> – The Development Control Committee paper links to economic development</p> <p>Action: Andrew to circulate paper</p> <p>It was explained that this paper looks at planning for sustainable development and ties in with carbon emissions from development. This opens up a local agenda and ties in with resilience for existing developments to adapt to change.</p> <p><i>RDPE</i> – DEP will be consulted by the RDA on applications submitted by Devon LAGs in May. It was agreed that this can be an email consultation.</p> <p>Action: These two issues to be added to future meeting agenda</p>
8.0	<p>DEP Agenda</p> <p>The three items listed were agreed to be substantial and the agenda should be kept short to enable a full discussion around these – employment space strategy, implementation of the Economic Strategy, LAA.</p> <p>Third sector representation also needs to be discussed more fully at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p>Action: other suggestions to be forwarded to Andrew.</p>

	<p>It was agreed that a lead needed to be established in some areas of work, e.g. innovation. People need to be identified to pick up batons.</p> <p>Encourage businesses to promote advantages of development.</p>
9.0	Notes of meeting 17th January and other matters arising
	<p>Torbay still need to be brought to the Table, with a suggestion of Mike Yeo <i>[additional note – Mike Yeo is already on the DEP circulation list]</i></p> <p>Futures Group meeting 13th March 2008.</p> <p>No other matters were arising.</p> <p>Workwise date had changed, post meeting note to be circulated.</p>
10.0	Future meetings
	<p>To be held 14th May, 16th July, 18th September, and 19th November. All at 8.30am by audio conference.</p>