



DEP Executive Audio Conference 14th May 2008

Present

Tim Jones
Andrew Lightfoot
Steve Pitcher
Richard Ball
Cathy Doidge
Sue Smith
Jen Brogan
Carl Budden
Tony Skeel
David Incoll
Leanne Crawford

1.0 Devon Economic Strategy Monitoring

Andrew reported two main points:

- A group has been set up, of a total of 10 members, to help with monitoring and implementation
- Work had been commissioned by Productive Skills for Devon for guidance on indicators in the LAA and the Delivery Plan. It was suggested that it should be investigated whether this approach can be adopted for the whole DES and related LAA outcomes. There will be an initial meeting to discuss this on Friday 16th May. It was agreed that this would be a suitable approach. It was questioned whether DCC would be coordinating the monitoring to avoid several groups or partners each monitoring different things and have a consistent approach.

Action: agreed that approach should be adopted for the DES. Andrew Lightfoot to report back on commissioning arrangements

2.0 Local Area Agreement economic outcomes

Congratulations were given for the amount of work achieved.

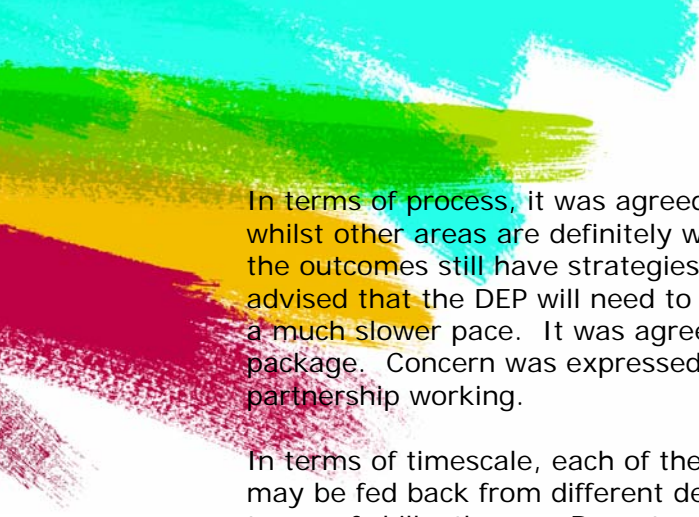
Andrew reported that various reports will be handed to the DSP at the end of this week and to DCC next week. Preliminary reports for each outcome were submitted to GOSW at the end of April, with 10 economic outcomes and a further 14 all sitting within the 4th Theme.

It was questioned whether the Partnership are happy to continue playing a role in the achievement of outcomes in the 4th Theme. Carl stated that the RDA still required discussion round the delivery plans they are involved in.

It was questioned whether a replacement for Ian Hutchcroft had been resolved in terms of the LAA 4th Theme work, and it was confirmed that there needed to be discussion around this but that Andrew would support the work in the interim. Sue stated that once the outcomes have been signed off, it will be up to the leads of individual outcomes to take control and ensure delivery and monitoring.

It was stated that there had been a suggestion by the County Executive that tourism is included within the indicators. Sue confirmed that it was too late and inappropriate to have a separate outcome for tourism, but that Keri Denton (DCC) has advised where tourism could be incorporated into existing outcomes.

Action: an update from Jamie Evans to be given, as a short piece of work, on the current state of Devon's economy and the effect of the current economic situation on Devon.



In terms of process, it was agreed that some of the outcomes are very strong, whilst other areas are definitely weaker they are still a requirement. Some of the outcomes still have strategies and delivery plans to develop, however it was advised that the DEP will need to accept that some outcomes will be achieved at a much slower pace. It was agreed that on the whole the Devon LAA is a strong package. Concern was expressed over the availability of resources to deliver and partnership working.

In terms of timescale, each of the outcomes are being dealt with separately and may be fed back from different departments within GOSW. Tony reported that in terms of skills, the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is way off pace and this may have an impact on sign off and local negotiation.

Cathy reported that the Environment Agency is in discussion with Roland Pyle on becoming the delivery partner for particular outcomes.

What next:

- It was suggested that a meeting is held in June with the 4th Theme leads to discuss Delivery Plans and linkages, with translation of strategies on local impact. It was agreed that this would provide a good framework with monitoring to identify gaps in resources.
- It was suggested that the DEP continues to manage the overall economic outcomes to avoid a fragmented approach.

It was agreed that the dust should be allowed to settle around the Boundary Review before any major decisions are made around Multi Area Agreements. It was agreed that there was a huge potential for Devon but that discussions should be held off until Spring 2009. It was confirmed that only 2 pilot MAA's were being supported at present. It was suggested and agreed that the 3 LAA's in Devon should be looked at in terms of commonalities in the 4th Theme/economy once they have been agreed, and that specific issues should be explored as groundwork for a potential MAA.

3.0 Visioning workshop

This was based on an LAA outcome on innovation, and a report recently published by government on business innovation. It was suggested that a group was pulled together to assess what is already happening in Devon and where the gaps are. This will be linked with the Visioning Group to discuss innovation in terms of local trends and global issues.

It was stated that Edward Chorlton has been chairing a Futures Group which has been looking at innovation and knowledge transfer. A report has been published by North Devon+ on the Rural Innovation Project 3rd Phase, which will be circulated to the group.

Action: Rural Innovation report to be circulated

Action: Jen to feedback comments on report to group

It was confirmed that the Devon Futures Group will be looking at both UK and International experts, particularly in Finland. Edward Chorlton has brought together some workshops to be held at Dartington Hall, which Vaughan Lindsay and Rob Varley (MET Office) will also be involved with.

Carl requested that any groups liaise with Lynne Del Greco on any innovation work.

4.0 Budget Allocations: commissioning

It was confirmed that £50k per annum has been confirmed by the RDA for the next two years.

This will fund work on monitoring and participation will be invited from other partners to focus and commission work on:

- Visioning
- Monitoring
- Team Devon
- Participation from the Third Sector

All agreed.

5.0 Funding Opportunities e.g. EU programme

It was agreed that existing work around competitiveness and potential benefits from convergence issues needs to be put into a recognisable strategy.

Sue confirmed that DCC will be hosting a seminar on 29th May on key EU funding which will bring all partners up to date. Everyone should have received an invitation.

6.0 Consultations

Lifting the Burdens: note on evidence to be submitted for the Partnership.

The RDA was expected to consult DEP on the four bids for LAGs during June.

Action: Jen to pull out 5 main priorities for each LAG for circulation to the group

SNR- it was stated that there are issues around new funding streams, including Business Rates Supplements and the Community Support Levy. It was agreed that the DEP should look at how it can input and at how the Community Levy will work, particularly in terms of housing delivery in the current economy.

It was confirmed that there is a group in London working on this, led by DCLG.

RSS – it was confirmed that the consultation will be closed for comment in mid June.

7.0 Membership of the Partnership

It was suggested that the Chair of the new North Devon + and two other private sector representatives should be invited onto the Partnership, all agreed.

It was suggested that in terms of the LAA, membership is invited to reflect the full range of topics on the 4th Theme outside of economy. It was agreed that this may make the DEP membership too large and that engagement should continue through subgroups only.

8.0 DEP agenda items 19th June

It was agreed that the main items would be:

- Employment Space Strategy
- DES implementation and monitoring, including LAA
- Devon Renaissance

Additional Items

- LAA – ownership, process and linkage as discussed at this meeting
- Project Development Resource – RDPE Axis 1&3

9.0 Notes of meeting held 13th March 2008

All agreed as accurate

10.0 News Update

- No signs of economic downturn in the South Hams or West Devon at present
- RDA confirmation of JG go ahead in Okehampton, deal to be closed
- Exeter Science Park site acquisition through RDA, East Devon and DCC
- Steps in progress in devolved delivery from RDA through North Devon+, and discussions are currently underway in Torbay to assess delivery there
- RDA is undergoing restructuring within the operations and development departments to be announced (internally) next week
- Early contact with CDC in Plymouth to be initiated
- North Devon is looking at agribusiness including new livestock markets at Holsworthy and South Molton
- The Environment Agency is focussing on LAA delivery

Date next meeting 16th July 8.30 by audio conference