

## Devon Economic Partnership Executive

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007, 8.30 to 9.30 am Audio Conference**

### **Present**

Tim Jones  
Andrew Lightfoot  
Carl Budden  
Cathy Doidge  
Sue Smith

David Incoll  
Jen Brogan  
Steve Pitcher  
Leanne Crawford (Scribe)

### **Apologies**

Richard Ball

Lynne Del Greco

### **1.0 Devon Economic Strategy redraft and Delivery Plan**

Comments are needed on whether the revised strategy is the kind of format partners envisaged and similar comments for the Delivery Plan.

It was suggested that Section 3 needs a rounding up paragraph. It is agreed that the format is much better although content is still not as concise as expected.

Annexe B – there seems to be a huge amount of actions here to be implemented, and it was questioned whether it would be better to concentrate on a smaller number of Strategic Actions. A balance needs to be struck with the contributions from the high number of different partners involved.

The redraft will refine the Delivery Plan and fill in the gaps.

It was reiterated that the strategy should provide the context for the LAA. It was stated that Defra provided very clear indications of what they expect in the 4<sup>th</sup> Theme last week and that it would be prudent to follow these guidelines.

It was noted that there was little reference to funding sources since the main purpose of the Strategy was to help identify key priorities based on analysis of need. However, checking for alignment with the EU competitiveness programme was proposed, with perhaps more coverage of funding sources in the concluding section.

It is stated that DRN have been omitted from the Key Partners list.

The Second Priority – Tackling Worklessness – has an action point of affordable housing, which does not seem to fit well under this priority. North Devon has an initiative to improve the quality of privately rented property for workers and considers the issue of affordable housing separately. There is also an issue of the number of new homes needed to support the projected level of economic growth in the county. These homes should not just be affordable. There needs to be a flexible strategy to reflect this, which provides the opportunity to adapt and chase alternative funding when required. It was agreed that there should be a rephrasing of this action point and the movement of affordable housing consideration to Section 6.

The editing team will be meeting next week, as there is still a body of work to be done on editing the action points.

***Action: Forward comments to Andrew. The revised version will be circulated to the wider DEP on 28 November for discussion at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December***

### **2.0 DEP Operational Plan budget and membership**

The proposed contents page had been circulated, and a lot of the content is already in



place.

Comment is required on the priorities, which are also relevant for the working groups being supported. Contributions from DCC and other partners add up to a sizable sum.

**Action: Provide comment to Andrew, particularly on the priorities for the Partnership**

The general area of membership was questioned on whether it was flexible and recognised all sectors. The issue of the Plymouth Sub-regional Area appears to have been resolved with David Parlbay of Plymouth Chambers agreement to sit on the Partnership. Chambers are linked with all other groups in Plymouth so will be fully representative. There is now also an issue of Richard Morgan's departure from Torbay as an alternative representative will need to be found.

**Action: David Incoll to initiate discussion with Nick Bye**

Clarification of the circulated budget was requested, as Carl said that Somerset is funding a Partnership Manager to conduct the "leg work". It was questioned whether DCC would be happy to absorb the work required for the delivery plan. Andrew explained that he thought the expectation was for the RDA to fund activities rather than staff. It was agreed that additional recruitment will depend on the LAA and whether there will be additional funding or work needed here. Leanne and Jen's time has been covered by the Admin Support fund, and figures presented did not include funding already received from the LSC, RDA or Devon Renaissance for infrastructure work. The focus of the given budget is on coordination and specific support for the Partnership.

It was suggested that there also needs to be recognition of additional work needed across the rural area.

### 3.0 Website

A proposed home page had been distributed to the group highlighting the layout and structure of information on the site.

Groups across Devon are currently producing their own communication strategies, and these need to be pulled together to ensure a comprehensive communication network for the whole county.

It was agreed that the website should be set up as quickly as possible, with the possibility of monthly email summaries being sent to the group until the website is functional.

#### Priorities

The budget reflects the areas of working groups.

**Action: Obvious gaps include rural productivity. Other identified gaps should be highlighted to Andrew along with further comment.**

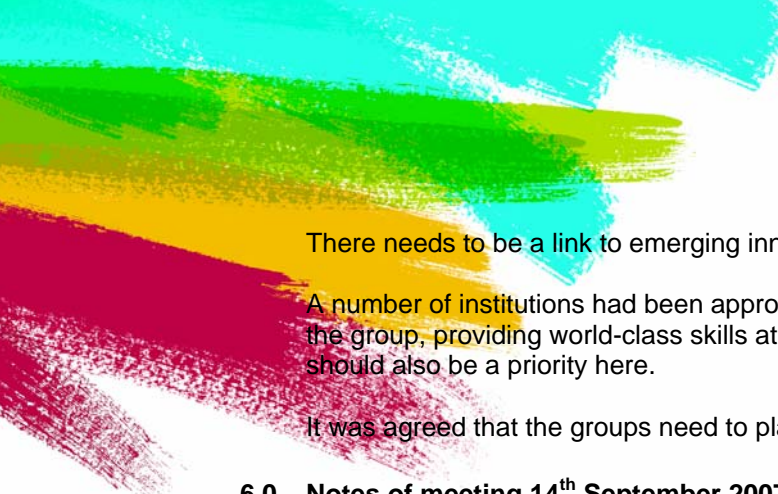
### 4.0 Agenda for Partnership meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December

Women and Enterprise will have to be held at a later meeting or taken to the PS4D meeting due to the unavailability of a representative to conduct a presentation.

It was also suggested that the issue of building trust and partnership raised at the previous DEP meeting should be kept on the agenda to ensure this point is not lost.

All agreed to the remaining agenda points.

### 5.0 Futures Group



There needs to be a link to emerging innovation and research agendas.

A number of institutions had been approached by Tim and had agreed to contribute to the group, providing world-class skills at the local level. Flexible working programmes should also be a priority here.

It was agreed that the groups need to play to the strengths the county has.

**6.0 Notes of meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Agreed subject to any concerns or updates being reported to Leanne.

**Date of next meeting**

Next meeting proposed for January 2008.

*Action: Leanne to circulate possible dates for the next 4 meetings to the group*