

## Devon Economic Partnership Executive

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009, 8:30am start, Lucombe House, Exeter

### **Present:**

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Tim Jones        | Chair                        |
| Graeme Bell      | DCC                          |
| Andrew Lightfoot | Executive Officer            |
| Leanne Crawford  | DRN                          |
| Paul Carroll     | Chief Executive CDC Plymouth |
| Andrew Southall  | (RDA)                        |
| Richard Ball     | Exeter C.C.                  |
| Cathy Doidge     | EA                           |
| David Incoll     | Devon CEX                    |
| Steve Pitcher    | North Devon Council          |
| Tony Skeel       | Learning and Skills Council  |

### **1.0 Response to Sub National Review**

Tim, Andrew S. and Andrew L. had attended a regional meeting in the previous week regarding some emerging thoughts about implementation of the Sub National Review. With the proposal for the local authorities and the RDA to oversee the integrated Regional Plan, Strategic Economic Partnerships (SEP's) needed to both work collecting in a more effective manner and align themselves more closely to the local authorities in their area. There was also a query over future RDA funding support for SEP's after September.

To help make the case for continued support, a template to describe the work and organisational arrangements for each SEP had been circulated.

**Action: A.L to complete this template for Devon**

### **2.0 Input to Regional Funding Advice**

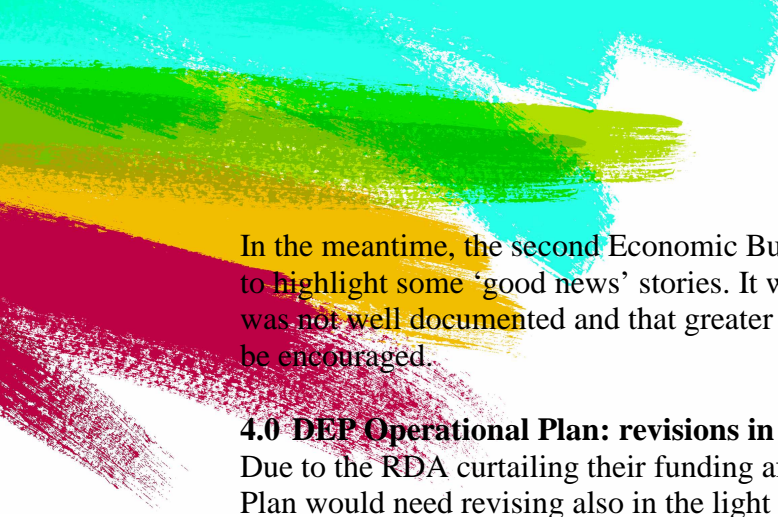
The response to the Regional Funding Advice from local authorities in Devon had been circulated. It was noted that elsewhere SEP's had been involved. The high aspirations expressed in the Devon response were welcomed.

### **3.0 Update of Devon Economic Strategy Delivery Plan 2009**

Tim had agreed that preparation of the 2009 Delivery Plan should be delayed pending reflection on the impact of the recession and that the plan would then cover the 09/10 financial year. It was agreed to arrange three small group meeting to draft ideas to be presented to the Partnership meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Action: A.L to arrange meetings on:**

- **impact of recession on the Delivery Plan**
- **access to finance**
- **impact on skills/training**



In the meantime, the second Economic Bulletin was being drafted which would seek to highlight some 'good news' stories. It was noted that the impact on self-employed was not well documented and that greater encouragement of local purchasing should be encouraged.

#### **4.0 DEP Operational Plan: revisions in the light of RDA's changed funding**

Due to the RDA curtailing their funding after September, the Partnerships Operational Plan would need revising also in the light of the discussions about the impact of the recession.

**Action: A.L to draft revisions.**

#### **5.0 Impact of economic downturn**

There as a wide ranging discussion of the impact of the recession with many relevant points to be reflected in the presentation to the full partnership on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **6.0 Research proposals**

It was agreed that there needed to be a stimulus to further research which might include consideration of the low carbon economy being used in various positive ways and opportunities for re-skilling.

#### **7.0 Event themes**

Possible themes for DEP events were considered. It was noted that there were to be:

- 29<sup>th</sup> January EU Masterclass event County Hall
- 18<sup>th</sup> February Weathering the Storm event County Hall

The first was a DEP event hosted by D.C.C. Access to finance was proposed as another seminar topic.

#### **8.0 Agenda items for DEP on 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Potential agenda items were:

1. Impact of the recession
2. Loc Carbon Economy opportunities
3. Needs of young people and means of involving them in DEP's work
4. EU funding programmes
5. Economic Strategy update and Delivery Plan
6. SNR developments and possible delivery vehicles.

**Date of next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> March 8:30**