

Devon Economic Partnership

Held on 6th October 2008, 10am
Pynes Hill Court (Jobcentre Plus Office), Exeter

Present:

Tim Jones	DCBC/Enterprise Plymouth	Karime Hassan	EDDC
Andrew Lightfoot	DEP Executive Officer	Rachel Butler	Jobcentre Plus
Jen Brogan	Devon Rural Network	Ian Morris	GOSW
Carl Budden	SWRDA	Graeme Bell	DCC
Ellen Vernon	North Devon Council	John Baker	DCC
Derek Phillips	Exeter Chamber of Commerce	Nigel Tremlett	Step Ahead
Tony Skeel	LSC	Jeremy Filmer-Bennet	DCBC
Terry Murch	Midas Group	David Incoll	CEX Group
Leanne Crawford	DEP Administrator	Andrew Southall	SWRDA
Chris Redding	Business Link	Jane Rickhards	PLUSS
Pete Tansey	BT/Devon Renaissance	Ian McGregor	Exeter CoC
Richard Ball	Exeter City Council	Steve Parrock	TDA
Andrew Ashley	Enterprise Plymouth	Cathy Doidge	Environment Agency

Apologies

Karen Chapman	Jobcentre Plus	Peter Harding	CCD
Steve Schlemmer	University of Plymouth	Cllr Bill Hitchins	South Hams
Peter Cloke	GOSW	Cllr H Temperley	DCC
Gordon Oliver	South Devon Chamber	David Parlby	Plymouth CoC
Nicola Poultney	Destination Devon	Alan Denby	Torbay Council

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were given round the table.

2.0 Devon Economic Strategy

2.1 Performance Monitoring Framework

A presentation was given by Nigel Tremlett and explained that the idea behind the Framework was to influence and inform work going forward.

Nigel stated that there were issues around independent indicators and ensuring that there should be a link throughout all the priorities; and also around the type of data collection needed for the indicators, which varied from hard numerical data to softer, less tangible, sources. It was explained that key indicators had been collated by each of the priority champions, with 6 or 7 for each, giving 36 key indicators out of a total indicator set of 260.

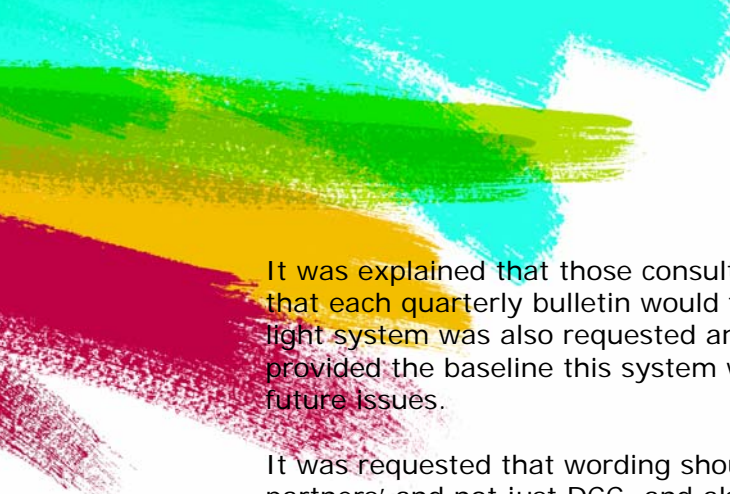
The Framework had been broken down into priority areas, and the final draft is available on the www.devoneconomy.co.uk website under ("reports and research").

It was stated that a meeting of the LAA 4th Theme task group was being held on 15th October to discuss how and when information could be collated and confirmed that the newsletter/bulletin would be used to attract interest on a wider basis.

Action: Comments on the Framework to be forwarded to Nigel Tremlett by 17th October nigel.tremlett@stepaheadresearch.co.uk

2.2 Reporting Style

A draft bulletin was distributed at the meeting for comment and is also on the Devon Economy website http://www.devoneconomy.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=55



It was explained that those consulted requested an update and it had been agreed that each quarterly bulletin would focus on one or two priority areas. A traffic light system was also requested and it was confirmed that as the first bulletin provided the baseline this system would not be used, however it will be present in future issues.

It was requested that wording should be looked at in terms of 'County and partners' and not just DCC, and also that work in the west of Devon should be acknowledged e.g. Language and Sherford.

Action: comments on the style and format of the bulletin to be forwarded by 17th October

It was suggested that partners can use the bulletin to promote the LAA process to their members, and that from a business perspective there will need to be something of interest, i.e. highlight advantages and achievements.

It was stated that the language needed to be addressed in terms of target audiences, and the linkage between the Framework, assessments and delivery plan should be clarified.

It was suggested that the document should be as interactive as possible and that links to other information sources should be included.

It was suggested that the FSB should have a link to the bulletin and have its own interpretation to distribute to its own membership. It was agreed that a mechanism for feedback should be built.

2.3 Resources for future monitoring

It was stated that arrangements for the next 2/3 years needed to be agreed, and that a reasonable budget would be available for this. It was stated that the DEP can manage the data collection, but this would need additional analysis and reporting. It was suggested that as Step Ahead had already been commissioned to produce the monitoring framework and draft reporting process they could be recommissioned to continue this work, or there could be an open invitation to tender.

Action: It was agreed that this decision could be delegated to the Executive Team to resolve


2.4 Summary of Progress

A paper was circulated prior to the meeting.

Andrew Lightfoot gave a summary of the progress to date. It was suggested that there may possibly be a reduction in Government funding due to changing policies, and confirmed that regional funding discussions were currently taking place, with an event being held on 17th October, chaired by the RDA.

It was confirmed that Janet Sinclair (Jobcentre Plus) was Chairing the Worklessness group and that an Action Plan had been drafted, reflecting changing emphasis on employment policies and practices.

Housing – it was agreed that this issue needed to be got hold of quickly, and that there were issues around planning policy and systems that were hindering rural development considerably. It was suggested that greater strength needed to be



given to political members in terms of exception sites, with a strong economic message. It was confirmed that a new Homes and Community Agency will be up and running in December and suggested that the DEP should be making early approaches to put Devon's case forward.

Action: *Ian Morris agreed to feed back comments to the GOSW housing team*

Action: *A dedicated piece of work to be actioned virtually, including Richard, Karime, and Tim, with representatives from Housing Agencies (Exeter and Torbay suggested). It was also agreed that this work should link in with the Strategic Housing Group*

Thanks were extended to Tony for his work around Priority D.

It was confirmed that a smaller group would convene to take the BSSP work forward.

Volunteers were requested to form a group to discuss EU funding programmes for Cooperation and Competitiveness. Jeremy Filmer-Bennett had nominated business representatives. IT was also requested that volunteers represented geographical relationships.

2.5 Preparation of Delivery Plan

DEP members were invited to help look at the delivery outcomes for 2009.

2.6 Potential Cooperation

It was stated that there were already three or four active areas of conversation with Plymouth and Torbay that were also relevant to Cornwall, which formed a good basis for discussions around Multi Area Agreements. It was confirmed that MAAs were voluntary and required the involvement of at least two top tier Authorities.

It was suggested that common ground needed to be established in terms of a small clutch of issues, and that a couple of early wins would be necessary to reinforce relationships.

It was questioned whether there would be an opportunity in Plymouth with the new City Development Company (CDC), and that links could be made with Paul Carroll. Steve confirmed that Torbay were also about to develop a Development Agency. It was agreed that there could also be potential for engagement with Plymouth through the current developments in the South Hams and East of Exeter.

3.0 Devon Employment Space Strategy

A presentation was given by Carl Budden, who confirmed that the document circulated was the latest draft from CooperSimms. It was agreed that the document still needed some refinement and confirmed that the background evidence and analysis was available as a separate document.

It was agreed that the primary responsibility for each priority site will lie with the District Authority as the lead partner and that the role of the DEP would be to monitor and manage the work to ensure information was flowing effectively.



Action: Comments on the Strategy to Carl Budden

It was stated that the Strategy was a 20 year plan and therefore not reflective of current circumstances. It was questioned whether there could still be issues around timescales and delivery and also the possible opportunities of prime sites becoming available due to a recession.

It was stated that the Strategy was light on creative methods of delivery and that work by Devon Renaissance was a good example of this.

Action: The Strategy will be available on the website

http://www.devoneconomy.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=55
for feedback by the end October

Action: Small working groups to be initiated to look at delivery, action planning, funding etc

It was suggested that the report does not fully reflect the economic diversity across Devon and that planning and transportation issues needed to be addressed.

4.0 ICT Strategy

A presentation was given by John Baker, with a paper circulated in the meeting. He explained that the ICT Strategy was the result of work by the Infrastructure Task Group through stakeholder consultations and South West benchmarking research evidence for intervention and increased use of ICT across Devon.

The Strategy looks at upskilling sectors for the use of ICT and the encouragement of more online activity.

It was highlighted that there were potential benefits in terms of increased economic activity and social inclusion, with mitigation against climate change and oil prices with flexible working practices. Opportunities around community and a "virtual Devon" were also considered, along with the need for greater engagement with young people.

It was stated that ICT links with for 13 LAA indicators and work around potential funding had been completed. Examples from abroad were also being examined, particularly from Sweden.

It was suggested that in terms of Delivery and Leadership the strategy would benefit from a major communications strategy. It was also highlighted that there could be implications around delivery and the current online 'black economy'.

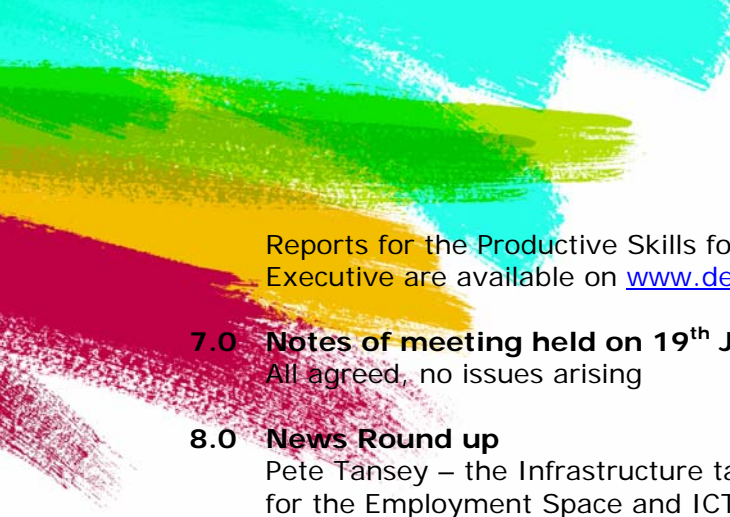
It was agreed that the Strategy needs to look beyond the connectivity level but also to consider what people are actually using the internet for. Greater continuity would also be required to ensure work is ongoing.

Action: Comments to on the ICT Strategy to be forwarded to John Baker (john.x.baker@devon.gov.uk) by end October. The strategy will then be sharpened by the working group

5.0 Implications of local Government Changes

It was agreed that the implications for this Partnership of possible local government changes in Devon would be discussed at a future meeting

6.0 Group Reports



Reports for the Productive Skills for Devon partnership, Team Devon, and the Executive are available on www.devoneconomy.co.uk under 'meetings'

7.0 Notes of meeting held on 19th June

All agreed, no issues arising

8.0 News Round up

Pete Tansey – the Infrastructure task and finish group had commissioned the work for the Employment Space and ICT Strategies, and stated that the group had not met for some time. He questioned whether there was still a role for this group, or if it should become a monitoring group. It was agreed that there was a continuing role to oversee development and implementation of the Strategies.

Terry Murch – reaffirmed that implementation of the Employment Space Strategy needed to be ensured asap

Carl Budden – raised the issue of recent press reports regarding reallocation of RDA funding and requested that any concerns should be raised to him

Tim Jones – Confirmed that a briefing note from the SEP had been circulated regarding an SNR report from Simon Hooton, but that there was currently no on the ground activity

9.0 Date of Future meeting

9th December 2pm **Okehampton Business Centre **PLEASE NOTE
CHANGE OF VENUE****

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Higher Stockley Mead
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