

## Devon Economic Partnership

19<sup>th</sup> February 2009, 10am Watermark, Ivybridge.

### Present:

Tim Jones (Chair)	DCBC/Enterprise Plymouth
Andrew Lightfoot	DEP Executive Officer
Andrew Ashley	Enterprise Network
Tony Skeel	LSC
Chris Redding	Business Link
Ellen Vernon	North Devon Council
Vanessa Saunders	Torridge District Council
Peter Harding	CCD
Cllr Humphrey Temperley	DCC
Mac Sherry	FSB
Ian Morris	GOSW
Adrian Sheen	Torbay Innovation Centre
Jeremy Filmer-Bennet	DCBC
Janet Sinclair	Jobcentre Plus
David Incoll	CEX Group
Karime Hassan	EDDC
Cllr Bill Hitchins	South Hams
Terry Murch	Midas
Graeme Bell	DCC
Leanne Crawford	DRN
David Parlby	Plymouth Chamber of Commerce
Derek Phillips	Exeter Chamber of Commerce
Cathy Doidge	EA
Jenna Corke (scribe)	DCC

### Apologies:


Andrew Southall	SWRDA
Ian McGregor	Exeter CoC
Pete Tansey	BT/Devon Renaissance
Rupert Owen	PCC
Julian Crowe	First group
Stewart Horne	WDBIP
Karen Chapman	Jobcentre Plus

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Introductions were given around the table and a brief description regarding the regeneration of the Watermark building in Ivybridge was given.

### **2. Response to the recession: reflect on how the Delivery Plan for the Economic Strategy might be refined**

A number of small group discussions have been held which led to the Delivery Plan refinements document being produced which had been circulated.



Employment space strategy includes Plymouth and Torbay

Humphrey reported that approximately 70% of the spend on construction of the new Bideford Community College is local. It was agreed that promoting business within Devon is important however we also need to do business elsewhere in England as well. We shall therefore encourage the population to shop locally.

There was general agreement that there are some difficulties for local businesses to get into the procurement process. However, 58% of DCC's procurement spend is within Devon.

There was a suggestion to use the Devon Brand on labels.

We need to get readily available development sites to get a short turn around when people want to invest and now is the time to invest in order to prepare for the upturn.

Other organisations such as Highways and English Heritage must see their role in improving the economy.

***ACTION: Infrastructure group to reconvene to take employment space strategy point forward.***

Business Angels offer money and advice for businesses wishing to grow. They act as a broker to bring the two together in any sector of work. There is currently a 50% success rate.

There is a high number of retired or older people who are very skilled and would like to contribute in the work place. Mentoring may be a way to use this skill bank. Mentoring in North Devon is specifically needed.

***ACTION: Find a catalyst to improve mentoring.***


Good progress with priority communities. Oxford are looking into indicators of rural deprivation which may lead to a slightly better indicator for rural deprivation.

Holiday at home in Devon – promoting good service from businesses to tourists in both Devon and other areas of England. Giving the consumer better value for money.

Government plans to come out of the recession are based on urban numbers and so it's our challenge to interpret this for Devon. Rob Hetherington works in the Economy unit at DCC to obtain real statistics in Devon rather than relying on regional data.

***ACTION: Tim/Andrew***

For information on the South West Regional Economic Task Group please see: [www.swretg.org.uk](http://www.swretg.org.uk)



Dartington Trust intent to set up a School for Social Entrepreneurs which will take a year to develop and implement business ideas. Links with small business culture in Devon.

The Express and Echo have traditionally not published good news stories about Exeter, however, they have now agreed to publish 14 good news stories in the coming months. This will be monitored.

It was agreed that the good news stories of Devon needs to be collected somewhere for everyone to view.

The Herald Bites Back campaign in Plymouth is promoting good news stories from businesses within the city.

### **3. A 'low carbon economy' and consideration of initiatives which might be supported in Devon.**

It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting.

### **4. EU programmes and opportunities arising from Competitiveness and Co-operation**

A seminar held at the end of January had attracted c50 attendees. An action plan was being drafted and further meetings were to be organised.

### **5. Notes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

All agreed, no issues arising.

### **6. News round up from members**

- Enterprise Network: Managed workspace in Plymouth – local delivery is key
- TDC: Half of the workforce are migrant workers and are planning to stay.
- Exmouth and Seaton initiatives – business seminars
- CCD: Working with the local shops alliance to hope more shops are not lost after the post office closures.
- Ivybridge Business Week – workshop to help the retail sector. Retail promotion services in Torbay had 300 people attending.
- Job Centre Plus is recruiting more people and doubling of people seeking employment due to the recession.
- DCBC have current events on their website
- May 12<sup>th</sup> ICT Conference
- EDDC: Working on infrastructure with Skypark. Flybe application will be submitted in March with hotel airport.
- Redevelopment of fish key in Seaton or Sidmouth
- Suggestion to invite bankers to event
- CoC: Partner with Skypark and DCC
- DRN: Please send good news stories to Leanne by Tuesday for the next newsletter.
- EA: Links to the North Devon ([www.ndascag.org](http://www.ndascag.org)) and South Devon ([www.sdadcag.org](http://www.sdadcag.org)) shoreline management plan websites. The sites have details of the plans and consultation events.



**Date of next meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 at 2.00pm**