



Devon Economic Partnership

10 am Friday 26th June, COSMIC Ottery St Mary

Present:

Tim Jones	DCBC
Chris Redding	Business Link
Andrew Lightfoot	DEP Executive Officer
Jeremy Filmer-Bennett	DCBC
Ian Morris	GOSW
Michael Cozens	South Hams District Council (for David Incoll)
Tony Skeel	LSC
Les Roper	SWRDA (for Andrew Southall)
Janet Sinclair	Jobcentre Plus
Robin Makeig-Jones	North Devon Plus
Paul Sadler	Environment Agency
Julie Harris	COSMIC
Paul Gompertz	Devon Wildlife Trust
Pauline Warner	DCC
Alex Huke	SWRDA
Leanne Crawford	Devon Rural Network (Scribe)
Sofie Ruggieri	DCC Economic Research Team
Rob Hetherington	DCC Economic Research Team
Karime Hassan	East Devon District Council

Apologies:

Nicola Poultney	Visit Devon Ltd
Graeme Bell	DCC
Bob Baggott	Plymouth University
Stewart Horne	Enterprise Network/West Devon BiP
Andrew Ashley	Enterprise Network
Julian Crow	First Group
Terry Murch	Midas
David Incoll	CEX Group/SHDC/WDBC
Andrew Southall	SWRDA
Peter Harding	Community Council of Devon
Gordon Oliver	Torbay
David Parlby	Plymouth Chamber of Commerce
Richard Ball	Exeter & Heart of Devon
Vanessa Saunders	Torridge District Council
Ellen Vernon	North Devon Council
Rupert Owen	Plymouth City Council

1.0 Welcome and introductions

Thanks were extended to Julie and COSMIC for hosting the meeting.

Tim also highlighted a visit to British Ceramic Tiles, which was a broke business for 10 years, but now supplies 30% of the UK tile market, and was looking to increase production from 5 million to 10 million tiles per year, to take 50% of the market. The company used local supply chains and a local company for all its logistics. It was currently looking to improve its gas turbine from 40% to 80% efficiency through hot air recycling. The company up-skills its workforce through in-house training, however it was having to recruit a significant proportion of its labour from eastern Europe due to skills gaps in the UK labour market.

2.0 Economic Assessment Duty

Sofie Ruggieri introduced herself as the new Economic Research Manager, based within the Economy unit at DCC, and stated that her primary role will be work around the local Economic Assessment Duty (EAD).

Sofie gave a presentation on the EAD, which has emerged from the Sub National Review, and proposed methodology and action plan [available to download on the Devon Economy Website]. A number of points were raised through discussion:

- The LAA and Local Development Framework are delivery elements of the process
- There are a huge number of environmental impacts and these should be prioritised
- IDeA had produced a toolkit for EAD, as guidance, though it was suggested that the environment headings did not include cutting edge thinking
- It was stated that the 'story of place' needed to pass the Somerset test and should be able to survive the aggregation of information outside of Devon
- An Action Plan was to be drawn up over summer
- It was questioned whether real time data could be sourced to provide a robust evidence base. It was confirmed that commercial data was also being used
- There needed to be a move to why, not what is happening in terms of data
- There were gaps in data for north Devon and other parts of the county/region
- It was questioned whether there could be a partnership for senior economic development officers for information sharing
- The timeframe for initial assessment was 18 months from now, with the EAD to become statutory from Government in April 2010
- Regular feedback to DEP would be required
- There was a danger for economic silos for development of sectors, with some not supported because they were not considered priority, eg retail and creative
- There will be a national consultation on EAD, and a benchmark has been suggested for the EAD to be developed within 6 months of April 2010
- There were sustainable, growth and development challenges and projected growth rates needed to be validated from real time data

3.0 Towards a lower carbon economy

A presentation was given on the various aspects of creating a lower carbon economy (available on the Devon Economy website

(<http://www.devoneconomy.co.uk/images/stories/meetings/DEP/low%20carbon%20economy%20part%201%20presentation%20june%202009.pdf> and <http://www.devoneconomy.co.uk/images/stories/meetings/DEP/low%20carbon%20economy%20part%202%20presentation%20june%202009.pdf>). A number of points were raised during discussion:

- There was no legislation to enforce a low carbon economy
- The reality is still above projected worse case scenarios
- Current sea level rises were the result of water expansion and land sinking, ice melt was not yet a factor
- Health implications of hotter climates needed serious consideration and could form part of domestic efficiency
- The SW Climate Change Impacts Partnership were looking at some of this work (<http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/>)
- Carbon management draft guidance was online for comment (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/greenhouse-gas/draft-guidance.pdf>)
- Funding for some renewable technologies was not available, e.g. anaerobic digestion. This needed to be looked at in terms of policy for support and affordability
- There needed to be more R&D to improve efficiencies and reduce costs

- Devon Futures – the Devon economists will need to state where the future energy requirement is going to come from very soon
- Most effective energy solutions were tied into strategic arrays rather than domestic installation (wind)
- The Exeter Growth Area had a low/zero carbon growth strategy, with energy companies much more online with providing viable business plans
- Exemplars could be made from new developments
- Resilience of communities could be evidenced through the transition town movement etc
- There needed to be more sophisticated discussion between the economic and environmental sectors
- ICT was also on the agenda in terms of reducing travel and improving technologies
- There needed to be precision around growth and its meaning
- The SIF in north Devon had no specific reference to low carbon and the language of low carbon and its translation for action on the ground needed to be defined
- The main message to businesses was that energy costs were rising and what were they doing to counter this
- SWRDA had a carbon zero target by 2012 for some departments, and work was ongoing to look at the methodology to assess CO₂ impacts of project proposals
- It was questioned how a carbon audit mechanism could be developed

Action: a core group, Pauline, Paul Sadler, Paul Gompertz, Julie, and Alex, to devise an action plan for the DEP, including contacts and available resources

Action: each member of the DEP to source their own organisation's carbon management plan and identification of energy demands, and feedback to core group to help inform action plan. This to be fed into Exec on 14th July

Action: each member to look at carbon management guidance on evidencing carbon journey (see previous link)

Action: DSP carbon plan for the LAA to be uploaded on to the DEP website

4.0 Activity update

Brief reports were provided on some of the current activities of the partnership, including:

- Devon Economic Strategy
- Productive Skills for Devon
- Devon IT strategy
- Future Jobs Fund
- Local Area Agreement
- Rural Business Group
- Access to finance
- Communications
- Team Devon

5.0 Date of Next meeting

2 pm 27th August, Plymouth (venue to be confirmed)