

## **LAA task group**

**2.00pm – 4.00pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**Larkbeare House, Exeter**

### **Present:**

Tim Jones – DEP Chair  
Andrew Lightfoot – DEP Exec Officer  
Keri Denton – DCC  
Jen Brogan – DRN, Secretariat  
Gaynor Hughes – South Hams DC  
Ian Morris - GOSW  
Annette Dentith - DCC

Tony Skeel - LSC  
Janet Sinclair – JobCentre+  
Philip Oldfield – Exeter CC  
Mel Sealey – RE4D  
Keith Williams – Exeter CC  
Pauline Warner - DCC  
Ian Shergold – Sustainability South West  
Mary Ridgway – Devon Str. Housing Group

### **Apologies:**

Paul Gompertz – Devon Wildlife Trust  
Ian Hobbs - DCC  
Andrew Southall - SWRDA  
Vanessa Saunders – Torridge DC  
Simon Timms - DCC  
Chris Redding – Business Link

Karime Hassan – East Devon DC  
Sarah Jennings - DCC  
Ellen Vernon – North Devon Council  
Gordon Cleaver – Mid Devon DC  
Tim Stokes – Exmoor NP  
Jill Borrow – DCC

1. All environment theme reports have been prepared except 1, same for economy theme reports. AL asked how do people want to share the information? Does everyone want access to reports either written reports or the spreadsheet as prepared by Step Ahead?

**All agreed that written reports as prepared by outcome leads would be useful certainly in the first instance.**

Delivery plans were developed in spring 2008 and most remain unchanged. Latest versions are on the website and a **note of when the plan was last updated should be included by outcome leads**. Progress is needed on how to roll out in districts, therefore the progress reports would be useful for that purpose.

How can we monitor the state of the economic downturn? This could be done relatively easily as part of LAA monitoring process without being too burdensome. The contract with Step Ahead is to complete quarterly analysis, the group need to agree key National and Local indicators to report on.

The Commission for Rural Communities and South West Food and Drink have been asked to monitor and report weekly to DEFRA on what is happening in the region and elsewhere, good and bad news stories, DEP could feed in to this process.

Ian stated that the Government might be prepared to reflect on some of the targets within the LAA particularly in the economic outcomes (in particular NIS 146 will be renegotiated) some targets in outcomes could be redefined as opposed to renegotiated.

Mary has also been talking to LSP colleagues about their targets etc.

2. Delivery plans should be updated on a regular basis to reflect current activity and progress

3. All leads should have received an email from Chris Phillips with a Spreadsheet attached with regards to the funding expected over 3 years, this spreadsheet is to be submitted to the DSP delivery board on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, therefore any leads who have not submitted the sheet **should send to Andrew or Pauline should do so by Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.**

Outcome leads are recommended to circulate figures to the districts to give them an idea of what to facilitate.

Some felt that a comments box to explain figures would have been useful.

GH asked whether we were to include costing for existing staff resource, AL answered no, on additional requirements on top of already covered costs.

There was a query around the tight timescales that had been set for responding, AL explained that Sara Cretney, the LAA co-ordinator is currently getting all the systems up to date therefore there is an element of catch up, which should not be the case in the future.

4. Some other risks to delivery were identified:

- EU funding and the timescales involved, some outcome leads have bids currently being assessed by EU with no decision until next year
- Not having the right partners engaged, some regional partners need to be engaged and are not
- Risk for worklessness outcome in line with the economic downturn. There is a lot of new unemployment

5. Sustainability theme – presentation from Ian Shergold, Sustainability South West.

*Link to presentation*

Questions:

- At what level have SSW engaged with Local Councils? SSW have contact Chief Executives, Chief Officers and Councillors
- What will happen at the end of the consultation? A report will be produced which will recommend where sustainability should be embedded then sent to Defra. Hopefully to direct funding and outcomes for Sub National Review
- What tools should we use in the future to help influence the outcomes? Glos are currently using a sustainability tool which sits on the SSW website. PW updated that there has been discussion within the environment theme around the use of an integrated impact assessment which encompasses EIA, equalities assessment and health assessment etc. there is no strategic requirement on the LAA for appraisal so a light touch has been taken, not using sustainability appraisal or strategic environmental assessment for example
- In terms of skills needs around the sustainability agenda, how do we tackle this? SSW currently run workshops for LSP's and others. Some work has been done around business support which includes environmental benefits. Some work has been done around renewable energy and business/skills, we need to find a way of making people aware of environmental savings and benefits as opposed to imposing a certificated qualification

SSW are running a workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec at the Guildhall in Exeter looking at the questions related to transport and travel. There are more details on the website if anyone is interested <http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/>

In terms of equality, it was a large feature of the DSP conference and a workshop has recently been run. Bruce Thompson is leading on accessibility.

**Action: outcome leads to include cross cutting themes in the quarterly progress reports**

6. Spar.net will be used to upload spreadsheet that Step Ahead produce and will be available on devoneconomy.co.uk

Nb. Spar.net will take over from March 2009 when the new update to the system is downloaded and trialed etc

To see a demonstration of spar.net by Keith and Nigel, there will be some short sessions run. Each session will be 30 – 45 minutes each at Great Moor House, Next to Sowton Park and Ride.

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> January – 9.30am, 10.30am or 11.30am. To book your place please contact Nigel Tremlett on [nigel.tremlett@stepaheadresearch.co.uk](mailto:nigel.tremlett@stepaheadresearch.co.uk) ASAP each session will last 45 minutes.

The bulletin is being produced, circulation list is growing. Any suggestions or contributions are welcome, Step Ahead are co-ordinating this ongoing piece of work.

**Action: AL or Nigel to send reminder email with regards to the bulletin so people feed in information**

**Action: LAA leads to send Andrew (economy) and Pauline Warner (Environment) LAA spend details spreadsheet as many sources of funding are as yet unidentified (spreadsheet attached in email)**

**Action: all to consider using Devon Funding News as a source of information, if you currently do not receive please contact [eddie.gooding@devon.gov.uk](mailto:eddie.gooding@devon.gov.uk)**

Some of the leads are finding it difficult to allocate funds to activities, some activities are at very early stages and there are often several different pots of money. For example, housing is looking to develop a service level agreement with Devon Sustainable Buildings Initiative to provide sustainability advice, but this is not yet costed.

Resourcing for LAA targets needs to be agreed and identified by 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009.

7. LABGI consultation, DCC is submitting a response. Government is changing the way that money is distributed. Devon is now being grouped with Plymouth and Torbay, currently 2/3 of the money goes to the districts and 1/3 goes to DCC, the new proposal switches those figures around. The figure being considered for Devon is £1.5million; closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> Nov for comments.

8. In terms of meeting format, the environment theme will continue to meet separately and get together with the economy outcomes periodically, no meeting date set for the next LAA task group. Leanne will be getting together some dates for the future and circulating in due course

#### News round up

Jen Brogan – is moving on from DRN in to a new position in the economy team of DCC as economic development officer. DRN will continue to facilitate LAA 25, JB will be replaced.

Gaynor Hughes – is leaving SHDC and returning to Wales and the beginning of February, GH will update AL as to who will be taking over the green spaces LAA outcome.

Mary Ridgway – more of a question, some actions in the DES are currently not being considered e.g. key workers + intermediate workers, this needs to be considered. MR to meet with Tony S with regards to housing apprenticeships.

Ian Morris – There is a BSSP event for local authorities on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at Sandy Park

Philip Oldfield – ExCC have launched the Exeter Business Support Service with the University, particularly around the High growth R&D agenda.