

**LAA Monitoring Group
Coaver Club (County Hall), Exeter, 10 February 2010, 2pm**

Minutes

Present:

Name	Organisation
Tim Jones (Chair)	Devon and Cornwall Business Council
Andrew Lightfoot	DCC, Head of Regeneration
Annette Dentith	DCC, Principal Waste Management Officer
Daniel Bailyes	Devon Economic Partnership
Doug Eltham	DCC, Principal Environmental Policy Officer
Emma Quest	National Energy Action
Julie Richards	DCC, Local Area Agreement Manager
Katie Grant	DCC, Assistant Economic Development Officer
Ken Carter	South Hams District Council
Leanne Crawford	Devon Rural Network
Liz Gingell	DCC, DSP Performance Improvement Officer
Mel Sealey	Renewable Energy 4 Devon
Paul Sadler	Environment Agency
Pauline Warner	DCC, Environmental Policy Manager

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Ellen Vernon	North Devon Council
Iain Perkins	DCC, Senior Procurement Officer
Jill Borrow	DCC, County Sports Development Officer
Sally Kittle	Job Centre Plus

1. Welcome and introductions

Tim thanked those present for attending and introductions were made around the table.

2. Review of progress and any other significant blocks for the economic and environmental themes

2.1 Municipal Waste (Annette)

Annette reported that good progress is being made, but that financial issues for next year may prove to be a barrier. However, there may be a chance of reclaiming some of the lost revenue funds.

The loss of momentum that would result from a cut to the 'Don't let Devon go to Waste' campaign was identified as a serious problem.

It is also recognised that the team is expected to increase recycling rates on a reduced budget.

2.2 Public Spaces (Ken)

A partnership meeting that had been postponed last year was held this week. However, there are no operating resources, with the group therefore relying purely on officer time. Over the next 12 months the value of the partnership will be key to the work no matter what happens with Local Government Reorganisation.

2.3 Vulnerabilities to Climate Change (Doug)

This priority is currently running behind schedule, hence the amber status. There is also a need for the districts to engage more. It is hoped that through work in partnerships partners may be reminded that they are committed to these targets.

2.4 Renewable Energy (Mel)

Mel reported that this LAA priority has a green rating for CO2 reductions, but red for turnover in staff in the sector. The project has therefore been rated as amber. However, there is no agreed funding beyond March 2010. A bid for EU support is currently underway.

2.5 Carbon Dioxide (Pauline)

While the figure is assessed as green, there are risks arising from resource issues under LAA4 and LAA6. Pauline is currently looking into how the whole LAA can target carbon emissions and is also working with transportation over the new Local Transport Plan (LTP3).

2.6 Public Sector Supply Chains (Pauline)

This target is on track. However, there are resource issues and the contribution from the districts could be improved.

2.12 Cultural Activities (Pauline)

There may be a reshaping of the local indicators

2.13 Fuel Poverty (Emma)

The progress being made to date has been better than initially thought, and the status should move from amber to green. However, there may be a struggle with financial resources in the next year.

Overall, the theme is looking strong, but limited resources over the next year may adversely affect progress.

2.14 Economic Potential of Disadvantaged Communities (Andrew)

Funding has been directed towards North Devon, and work is taking place in coastal towns such as Exmouth and Seaton.

2.15b Economic Inclusion and Social Integration (Andrew)

The Business Support Voucher Scheme aims to assist the growth of existing Social Enterprises through Business Link. The Devon School for Social Entrepreneurs has also now recruited 20 students.

2.17 Skills (Andrew)

Skills have been awarded a green status. The Productive Skills 4 Devon (PS4D) group have allocated both revenue and capital funds from its reward grant to a number of schemes in the county.

2.18 ICT (Andrew)

Work has been underway to improve broadband access. A joint venture is proposed between Devon and Somerset on the boarder to improve connectivity, and is subject to a funding application to the RDA.

2.19 Innovation Strategy and Delivery Network (Andrew)

Not much progress has been made recently, though this is due to pick up in the next quarter.

2.20 Sustainable Travel (Andrew)

General travel has shown improvement. However, sustainable travel to schools remains a challenge.

2.21 Major Infrastructure Improvement Schemes (Andrew)

The Axminster rail line is complete.

2.22 Employment Space (Andrew)

The Devon Employment Space Strategy (DESS) has been signed off, and work is currently underway to identify priority sites.

2.24 Worklessness (Andrew)

A whole range of work is currently underway to tackle the problem and there is a good network in place.

2.25 Land Based Sector (Leanne)

Leanne reported that a change is likely. There are, however, concerns over future resources.

3. Update on the whole LAA and the refresh process (Julie Richards)

3.1 LAA Refresh

This is a very light touch, and central government is only interested in national indicators. Devon has many local targets of relevance to local partners – the refresh of these local targets is therefore at our discretion. Any helpful changes ought to be made.

3.2 Comprehensive Area Assessment

Martin Green has been meeting with Phil Norrey to look at outstanding concerns. Any further relevant information will be shared with those concerned.

3.3 LPSA2 (Local Public Service Agreement 2)

The skills reward money has been confirmed, and overall achievement has been high. Tim also commented that the PS4D group meets with enthusiasm and is strong on delivery. Working towards reward money has also been great. LPSA2 provided a real incentive for partnership working.

3.4 Future Partnership Delivery

Key principles in the future:

- Stronger emphasis on Devon's story and place (not just national targets);
- Stronger emphasis on special definitions;
- Stronger emphasis on value for money, explicit link to Total Place initiative;
- Stronger emphasis on themes and issues;
- More clearly defined, outcome focused, fewer targets (because of resources);
- Stronger emphasis on collaborative leadership e.g. Total Place.

4. RAG reports and use of spar.net (Katie Grant and Liz Gingell)

It is hoped that Spar.Net will replace the RAG reports. It is more accessible and consistent. It is also hoped that it will tie in with the delivery targets of the Devon Economic Strategy.

Liz gave a demonstration of Spar.Net and will be contacting people individually to progress on this issue.

5. Engagement with cross-cutting themes (Paul Sadler)

Paul aims to increase awareness of the cross-cutting themes and encourages those present to embed them within their individual themes. Paul has produced a table to aid this process.

6. Notes of the last meeting (both economy and environment)

Passed without comment.

7. General news round-up

7.1 Annette

Devon and Cornwall Police are developing a waste strategy and would like to know of any potential links.

7.2 Julie

Would like those present to pass on any lessons learned from their themes.

7.3 Emma

Has been asked to redevelop the Devon Affordable Housing Strategy.

7.4 Doug

An update on the impact of climate change to businesses is due this summer.

7.5 Andrew

A table has been produced by the SW Brussels Office detailing the EU funds that are available in the South West.

The review of the Devon Economic Partnership is also due soon.

8. Agree actions and dates of future meetings

Action: A communications strategy was discussed for this group, and more details need to be worked out.

Action (Liz): Liz will also be meeting with people individually to discuss Spar.Net training.

The date of the next meeting will be arranged by Daniel.