



Devon Economic Partnership

LAA 4th Theme Task Group – Economy, environment, transport, waste, sport, culture and housing

Held on 2nd July 2008, 2pm
Environment Agency, Exminster

Present:

Andrew Lightfoot	DEP Executive Officer	Allie Clark	Teignbridge DC
Jen Brogan	Devon Rural Network	Ian Morris	GOSW
Sarah Jennings	DCC - biodiversity	Gill Wheelwright	Exeter CC
Pauline Warner	DCC – affordable housing & ‘Greening Devon’		
Gordon Cleaver	Mid Devon DC	Tim Stokes	Exmoor NPA
Ellen Vernon	North Devon Council	Phil Slater	DCC – Transport
Vanessa Saunders	Torridge DC	Heather Holland	Environment Agency
Joanne Rumble	Dartmoor NPA		
Tony Skeel	Learning & Skills Council	Gaynor Hughes	South Hams DC
Mary Ridgway	Devon Strategic Housing Group	Nigel Tremlett	Step Ahead Research
Roland Pyle	DCC – LAA Co-ordinator		
Paul Gompertz	Environment Devon		

Apologies

Tim Jones	DEP chair	Carl Budden	SWDRA
Jill Borrow	DCC – Sport Development	Ian Hobbs	DCC – Economic
Inclusion			
Simon Timms	DCC - Culture	Neil Roberts	Active Devon
Bruce Thompson	DCC - Transport	David Incoll	WDBC/SHDC
Ian Harrison	DCC	Joan Farleigh	Job Centre+
Richard Ball	Exeter CC		

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were given round the table.

AL briefly explained how the 4th theme came about for the benefit of district reps who were invited to the meeting for the first time. The main aim of the meetings are to

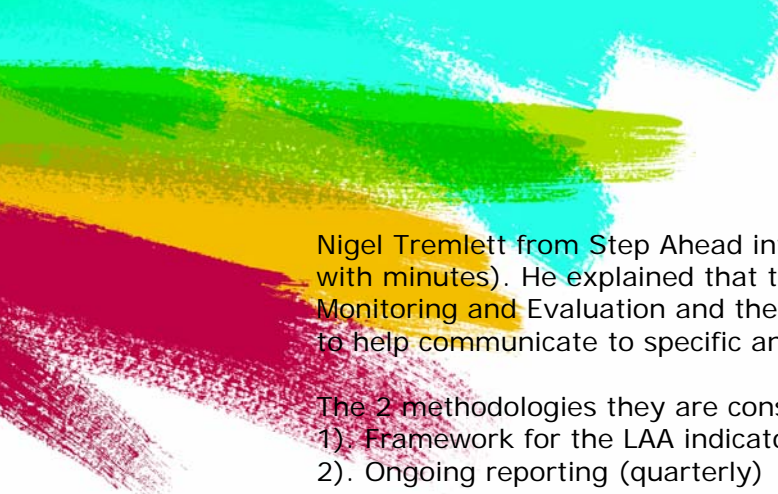
- 1). Explore the links between the outcomes further
- 2). Is this group the right place to discuss the 4th theme and are the right people around the table?

The LAA was signed off by Government on Mon 30th June, along with the other 149 around the Country.

It was questioned whether the name of the group was slightly misleading i.e. having Devon Economic Partnership..... This point would be picked up at the end of the meeting (see paragraph 8). However the role and resources of the Devon Economic Partnership in providing the co-ordination for this work were outlined.

2.0 Monitoring, performance recording and communication

AL introduced the agenda item by explaining about the Skills experience of using Step Ahead Research/SLIM. The work produced was of high standard so Step Ahead were approached to develop a monitoring and evaluation and reporting system for the Devon Economic Strategy (DES) and related LAA outcomes.



Nigel Tremlett from Step Ahead introduced the work (brief attached in email with minutes). He explained that they have been commissioned to look at Monitoring and Evaluation and the overall framework and recording system to help communicate to specific and general audiences.

The 2 methodologies they are considering are:

- 1). Framework for the LAA indicators
- 2). Ongoing reporting (quarterly)

With regards to 1). The idea is to look at the LAA indicators that relate to the DES priorities and identify the gaps. Some of the reporting will be qualitative and some quantitative.

A desk based review is the starting point and the available and potential indicators will be mapped on to the DES priorities. The next stage is to meet with the champions of the DES priorities over the next month or 2 and have discussions with LAA outcome leads, this will culminate in a sign off workshop on **9th Sept 2008 9.30am – 12.30pm, the reading room, Coaver Club, Devon County Council.**

With regards to 2). The quarterly reporting is a key part of the whole process. The idea will be to focus on a few highlights, not get bogged down in information. The North Devon+ reporting was cited as a good example. A traffic light system will also be introduced. The aim is to produce the first report in Oct 2008. Some of the 4th theme LAA outcomes do not directly contribute to the DES priorities but they will be included.

TS made the point that we should try not to focus solely on the indicators but on the work surrounding the indicators too.

Part of the consultation will be to support the recording on local and national indicators and to help identify issues, it will also help to identify supplementary information e.g. at the local or district level. This will be linked in to the DSP resource hub and the cross cutting themes.

This group is taking the lead in some respects on reporting on the LAA as there is no guidance as such.

All organisations involved in this process are responsible for providing information for reporting, this will be part of the consultation exercise, any questions can be forwarded to Nigel.tremlett@stepaheadresearch.co.uk

For those who would like to see the Skills report you can find it on www.devoneconomy.co.uk under Productive Skills for Devon.

Nigel will be considering the data available including SW Observatory, in particular for the national indicators.

DEP is paying for the work to be done. This comes from funding from the RDA and DCC (approx £160k over 2 years)

It is envisaged that there will be a database on the DEP website where information can be found.

Action: ALL invited to workshop to sign off reporting/ M&E work on Sept 9th 2008

3.0 Impact of outcomes on localities/districts and contribution of local



action.

Circulated with the agenda were some district reports, Torridge/North Devon missing.

Action: Roland to send Jen B final versions when prepared

South Hams – Gaynor Hughes is the contact, very much linked in with the SH Sustainable Communities Strategy.

West Devon – Tim Beavon is the contact. Again linked in with the West Devon Sustainable Communities Strategy

Dartmoor/Exmoor – both are linking in with the each National Park Management Plan (Dartmoor almost signed off) Jo and Tim to find out who the contacts at each park will be.

North Devon/Torridge – the joint paper is being progressed. North Devon contact is Steve Pitcher or Ellen Vernon, Torridge is Vanessa Saunders

Mid Devon – Gordon Cleaver or John Bodley-Scott are the contacts, LAA has been aligned with the Community Strategy and the Structure Plans.

Exeter – Gill Wheelwright is the contact at Exeter. LAA alignment with Community Strategy, and evidence base has been produced for the strategy.

Teignbridge – The Community Strategy has just arrived therefore more work will be done. Steve Matson or Allie Clark are the contacts. Economic Development is one of the main drivers.

Action: Gordon Cleaver to investigate why Biodiversity is not included in Mid Devon paper.

4.0 Interconnections between outcomes

RP - There is a lot to be gained from looking at how outcomes relate to each other, this is made slightly easier by the existence of this group. The 4 block/theme leads meet to help provide linkages.

The Delivery and Partnership boards of the DSP may periodically invite outcome leads to meetings to give an update on delivery.

5.0 Rural Proofing


For the benefit of those who do not normally attend, JB eluded to the Rural Proofing document that had been produced commenting on the LAA (attached to minutes).

Rural proofing will be an ongoing process throughout the LAA especially when delivery plans are being implemented. The offer is there for all to make use of the DRN if there are any projects/plans that will have a significant impact on the Rural areas, of which many will. DRN are there to advise and support where possible. It is a wide partnership therefore expertise can be drawn in whenever necessary.

6.0 Climate Change

Pauline Warner and Paul Gompertz were asked to comment on this cross cutting theme.

DCC has 2 foci: Adaptation and Mitigation. The adaptation side is yet to



establish a partnership so the main focus of work has been around mitigation, the LAA has 2 outcomes including reducing carbon emissions. DCC is looking at its emissions including domestic, commercial and transport emissions.

The resilience forum (emergency services who plan for what to do in a disaster situation e.g. flooding) and emergency planning need to be linked in with the LAA outcomes.

There is also a need to consider other partnerships such as Devon Sustainable Energy Network and Environment Devon (Environmentally proofing arm of DSP, facilitated by Devon Rural Network, Chaired by Paul Gompertz). A few actions need to be considered and concentrated on to make a difference.

Paul Gompertz questioned what people are most afraid of when it comes to Climate Change as it is mentioned all the time. He understands the parameters of working within of a partnership

Vanessa made the point that with the introduction of PPG (Planning Policy guidance) 25 around flood risk, there would be significant impacts on how outcomes are going to be delivered. It will be imperative to engage the planners to ensure understanding and joint working.

RP highlighted the Centre for Energy and Environment at the University of Exeter as a good information and support source.

Action: AL to circulate Ian Morris's email on regional renewable energy plan, consultation open until 26th September.

We also have expertise around the County such as Devon Renaissance who are BREEAM accredited and Schumacher College at Dartington.

How do we have the debate about tensions in delivering outcomes e.g. building houses and being sustainable/sympathetic to climate change?

DCC is developing an integrated impact assessment tool to help identify/mitigate against these tensions.

Pauline also advised the group about a toolkit being developed on Sustainable Rural Communities, specifically around housing at this stage. It will enable LA's and communities to talk to each other using the same evidence base, like a self help kit.

The toolkit can be found on:

www.devonsp.org.uk/otherdocs.html or <http://www.dshg.org.uk/>

Some people will have received the prototype via the consultants, mainly aimed at umbrella organisations such as DRN.

7.0 Equalities

Ian Hobbs is championing this theme and is linked in with the 3rd block/theme. The Equality Strategy and Scrutiny Group will be providing guidance on this; a meeting is scheduled for 18th July.

8.0 Future meetings and format

Next meeting will take place at the 9th Sept workshop. The name of the group was debated and it was decided that Step Ahead should provide some ideas at the workshop after going through the consultation process.

Terms of Reference for the group would be useful

Action: AL to draft ToR

Focussing on a specific theme at each meeting was also supported e.g. climate change

Gaynor advised all that a partnership was being developed to look at LAA2 – public spaces, first meeting this month

Mary advised that the DSHG conference would be taking place on Oct 16th at Exeter Racecourse. Any suggestions of invitees e.g. chief exec, decision maker level should be email to Mary at mary.ridgway@southhams.gov.uk

9.0 Dates of Future meetings

9th September, Reading Room, Coaver club, DCC, 9.30am – 12.30pm
15th October, 2pm venue TBC