

**Minutes of the Meeting of the East Devon Business Forum held  
at East Devon Business Centre, Honiton on  
Thursday 12 August 2008**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Graham Brown Nigel Harrison Roy Stuart Chris Lane Rowan Carter Councillor Philip Skinner David Lockwood Keith Annett Michael Dart Alec Carter Graham Pateman Councillor Paul Diviani Councillor Chris Tratt Terry Kingdon Graham Sindle Nick Agg -Manning Stephen Ayres Madeleine Simms Nick Spysznyk P Evans Councillor Bob Buxton Tim Spores	Chairman Economic Development Manager, EDDC A E Stuart & Son EDDC Greendale Industries Worldwide Trading Stags Tru homes Darts Farm Greendale Industries May Gurney EDDC EDDC Allwood Buildings Ltd Thomas Westcott Land Rover Experience Exeter Airport Cooper Simms M2 Leisure Group Dunkeswell Eco Business Park Honiton Development Trust Fields of Sidmouth
<b>Apologies:</b>	Angela Wright Councillor Sara Randall Johnson Donovan Galling Councillor Peter Halse Karime Hassan Councillor Malcolm Florey	Crealy Great Adventure Park  EDDC Vice-Chairman Halse of Honiton Corporate Director, EDDC EDDC

The meeting started at 6.05 pm and ended at 8.05 pm

9      **Welcome**

Graham Brown, Chairman of the East Devon Business Forum welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for their time.

10     **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the East Devon Business Forum held on 8 July 2008, were confirmed and signed as a true record, subject to the addition of the name of Councillor Bob Buxton to those present.

11     **Matters Arising**

Escalating Energy Costs (Min No 5 refers)

Members noted that a further report would be made by Tim Ford on this issue at the next meeting.

11 **Matters Arising** (Cont)

The East Devon Business Forum in 2008/09 (Minute No 7 refers)

The Chairman reported that Angela Wright had agreed to become the Business Forum's Press Officer. It was hoped that Nigel Harrison could arrange a visit to Flybe for the next meeting on 11 September 2008.

12 **Exeter International Airport – Master Plan**

Stephen Ayres, Communications Director of Exeter Airport, gave Members a presentation on the draft Master Plan which set out the vision for the future development of Exeter International Airport.

The consultation on the plan ran from 24 June 2008 to 30 September 2008, with the final Master Plan to be released in late 2008. The master plan was a legal requirement for the airport to show the long term aspirations of the business. Currently 52 responses had been received, the overwhelming majority of which were supportive.

Members were informed about the current set up of the airport, including supporting 1400 direct full-time equivalent workers who in turn supported a further 750 jobs in the region. The airport was also a base for over 60 general aviation aircraft owned by flying clubs, schools and individuals.

The objective of the draft Master Plan was to make the airport the principal regional gateway to Devon and Cornwall.

**Passenger growth** – Members were informed that over the past ten years, passenger numbers had increased by 17%. The forecast for 2015 was 1.9 million, increasing to 3.3 million by 2030. For comparison purposes, this would be half of the number currently serviced at Bristol Airport which currently handled 6.2 million.

**Development** – The Draft Master Plan covered improvements to customer facilities, including the terminal development phases, additional parking and better transport links. Contrary to rumour, the development did not include an additional runway. Changes to the runway were planned to meet with regulations, resulting in a shift to the east at one end, but this would not result in the runway being any longer.

By 2030 it was anticipated that the airport would be three times the current size, with the development taking place mostly to the south of the runway.

**Sustainability** – Ground operations were targeted to be carbon neutral by 2015

**Noise** – The airport has launched an application to the civil aviation authority to increase the air space controlled by the airport. This increased area would mean that the airport could control aircraft descent to a degree that would help reduce noise levels. It was expected that the 150 homes affected currently would increase to 250 homes by 2030, where those homes would experience more frequency in aircraft noise but not in level. Night movements were not expected to increase.

**Access** – the forecast was expected to be a reduction from 80% arriving at the airport by car to 60% through improving transport links.

Some Members were concerned that the airport calculations took into account the completed new town of Cranbrook, of which building work was currently on hold.

12 **Exeter International Airport Draft Master Plan** (cont)

The following observations were amongst those voiced during discussions:

- The figures presented in the Draft Master Plan were prepared before the current economic slowdown and fuel increases;
- That the airport could operate successfully with one runway;
- That the success of Flybe and the airport were closely linked and that Flybe continued to be a successful business;
- That the airport continued to enjoy the support of the local community;
- The importance of the airport to the business community in East Devon.

Members thanked Stephen Ayres for his presentation.

- RESOLVED**
1. that the Business Forum's unanimous support for the Exeter International Airport Draft Master Plan as presented to the meeting be noted;
  2. that Roy Stuart, Chairman on the Exeter International Airport Consultative Group work with Nigel Harrison in preparing a written response to Exeter Airport on the Draft Master Plan.

13 **Exeter and Heart of Devon Economic Development Strategy Consultation**  
(Minute No 37 of 20 May 2008 refers)

Councillor Graham Brown, Chairman welcomed back Madeleine Simms from Cooper Simms Limited to a meeting of the Business Forum. Members noted that Cooper Simms Limited had been appointed by the Exeter and Heart of Devon Economic Partnership and were working on a review of the sub-region's economic development strategy. The report had been prepared and they were keen to hear the views of the East Devon Business Forum members on the issues they thought the Exeter and Heart of Devon Economic Development Strategy should address in the period to 2013.

The Sub Regional Economic Development Strategy Sub Committee had not yet met and a meeting would be held shortly to consider the revised Exeter & Heart of Devon Economic Development Strategy.

Members noted that the Exeter & Heart of Devon partnership was an economic area consisting of East Devon, Exeter City, Teignbridge and Mid Devon. Three years ago the partners had commissioned an economic development strategy.

The outcome of the review would inform the work of economic development agencies including that of East Devon District Council. It was acknowledged that the Business Forum's contribution to the review process was an important way of ensuring that the revised strategy was sensitive to issues affecting business and employment in East Devon. This was the Business Forum's opportunity to take part in the shaping of the revised economic development strategy for the sub region.

It was confirmed that the purpose of the work Cooper Simms had been given was to: update the 2005-08 strategy and review progress since the last strategy, take stock of the present situation, propose new actions for 2008 – 2013 and review the indicators to be monitored. Cooper Simms had been appointed in mid March and interviewees had been contacted and meetings arranged. Draft strategies had been produced and wide consultation was in process. There were three regional strategic objectives that consisted of: Increasing business productivity; Strong and inclusive communities; and an effective and confident sub region. It was agreed that the revised strategy as currently drafted would be circulated to members for consideration

13 **Exeter and Heart of Devon Economic Development Strategy (Cont)**

During discussions the following points were noted:

- that the Science Park and Sky Park would not meet the needs of local businesses and would be filled by high level incoming businesses;
- that most of the targets outcomes agreed in the 2005 – 2008 economic development strategy had produced had not been achieved or even monitored;
- that East Devon District Council had not done enough to encourage economic development in the rural areas;
- that building work on the new community was unlikely to go ahead for at least 3 – 4 years;
- that the ‘Living and Working Countryside’ report from Matthew Taylor MP had been published since the last meeting;
- manufacturing remained an important part of the South West economy;
- concern was expressed that if the Exeter and Heart of Devon Economic Development Strategy was adopted whether it would be implemented;
- an opinion was expressed that the proposed Intermodal Rail Terminal was not needed in East Devon and in any case was in the wrong place;
- that many of the residents in the Exeter and Heart of Devon Economic Area were of retirement age and not economically active.

Madeleine Simms was thanked for her presentation.

**RESOLVED** that a meeting of the Sub Regional Economic Development Strategy Sub Committee be held before the next full meeting of the Business Forum on 11 September.

14 **Dates of Future Meetings**

Members were reminded of the following dates for future meetings:

- Thursday 11 September 2008 – details of possible visit to Flybe to be confirmed.
- Thursday 11 December 2008
- Thursday 5 February 2009

Chairman ..... Date.....