

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of a Meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held in the Committee Room, East Devon District Council on Wednesday, 9 January 2008

Present:	Councillor Sara Randall Johnson (Chairman)	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Jill Elson (Communities Portfolio holder)	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Stuart Hughes	Devon County Council
	Councillor Mrs. Margaret Rogers	Devon County Council
	Peter Jeffs (Culture)	East Devon District Council
	John Golding (Housing)	East Devon District Council
	Matt Dickins (Planning)	East Devon District Council
	Charlie Plowden	East Devon District Council
	Becky Carmichael (PCT)	Devon PCT
	Paul Walker, East Devon Commander	Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
	Roger Grainger	Devon County Council
	Marilyn Fearon	East Devon CVS
	Eli Pang (Older people)	AGILE and Ottery St. Mary and District Later Life Forum
	Liz Wood	Learning Disabilities Service
Malcolm Sherry (Business Sector)	East Devon Chamber of Commerce	
Apologies:	Chief Inspector Jim Nye	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

The meeting started at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 11.15 a.m.

The Chairman welcomed all present.

*120 **Resignation**

Peter said that he had received the resignation of Emily Farrell who represented the South West Rural Development Agency on the LSP.

*121 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on the 10th October 2007 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Peter gave an update on Minute 114 "Neighbourhood Assessments". He said that with the exception of Exmouth, which is beginning shortly, all of the planned Neighbourhood Assessments have now been carried out and a final report will be produced.

The Chairman said that an email had been sent to the Licensing Section (EDDC) on behalf of the LSP regarding concerns over drinking outside pubs and noise near residents, and the need for a multi agency meeting with publicans. She said that a response had been received from Licensing who had taken the LSP's concerns on board. Peter said that this was also on the Community Safety Partnership's agenda.

*122 **Devon Towns Forum**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Councillor Vernon Whitlock who was asked to attend and explain the work of the Devon Towns Forum.

Councillor Whitlock said that he was a Board member of the Devon Towns Forum which exists to provide all Community Partnerships working in Devon with certain support and networking services. These included opportunities to share experiences and promote strategic working through excellent networking opportunities and events. The Devon Towns Forum provides class training, conferences and seminars designed to support the individual community partnerships with opportunities to meet with experts and specialist including representatives of local agencies. The Devon Towns Forum is supported by the Market and Coastal Towns Association and Devon County Council.

He said that there were representatives of the Devon Towns Forum in other towns and all link up as similar problems occur in towns. Honiton shares its problems with other rural towns. There are links with other Town Forums within the County via conferences. No link up as yet with places in Europe.

The Devon Towns Forum 7 key objectives are:

- To provide an inclusive forum for towns and their hinterland undertaking community planning exercises within the county of Devon and act as a communication channel to regional and sub-regional bodies;
- To provide opportunities for the exchange of information between towns and their hinterland, to meet, share good practice and learn for future planning and development;
- To provide supportive events such as training seminars and conferences, which are free to members and offer unique opportunities to engage with subject experts and the supporting agencies to promote successful community partnerships.
- To offer a representative voice for advice, guidance and sign posting where appropriate;
- To identify issues common to communities undertaking community planning exercises to share and promote learning and where appropriate, facilitate a framework for influencing and lobbying at a county or sub-county level;
- To develop the capacity of the Forum and its members to support the process of regeneration.
- To support co-ordinated, or joint approaches to projects and project funding wherever there is an appropriate opportunity to achieve an economic, or strategic advantage.

Councillor Whitlock said that membership of the Forum is free and open to groups, or persons representing Community Partnerships involved in recognised Community Planning i.e. recognised by the MCTA, SWRDA, or Devon County Council. He also welcomed local authority, agency and elected representatives who wish to be involved and be kept informed.

He said that with a budget of £40,000 for the whole of the forum £3,000 had been allocated to working with East Devon's LSP and he asked what the Devon Towns Forum could offer the LSP, perhaps training opportunities to promote what the LSP is doing already.

Peter asked what the actual mechanism would be for the LSP to ask the representative from Devon Towns Forum to go back to the towns and get their views. Councillor Whitlock said workshops could be held in those towns.

He said the Devon Towns Forum was looking at negotiating a new Service Level Agreement in June and this will need to be discussed jointly with the LSP.

Councillor Whitlock concluded by thanking the Chairman for allowing him to attend and explain the work of the Devon Towns Forum. He produced a handout on the objections and outputs of the Devon Towns Forum and explained that their website contained a lot of very useful information. Website link:
<http://www.devontownsforum.org.uk/>

The Chairman thanked Councillor Whitlock for his informative talk. Councillor Whitlock then left the meeting.

The Chairman asked all those present whether they agreed that the Devon Towns Forum should be offered a permanent seat on the LSP. All those present agreed. Sue would invite him and supply him with a list of dates/times of future LSP meetings.

*123 **LAA proposals. Opportunity for East Devon LSP to feed into the proposals**

Peter presented his paper “Local Area Agreement (Comparison)” and explained that the Government is trying to get each of the main bodies, unitary or counties to act as facilitator for their area and to produce a “contract”. Devon County Council has been working to produce a list of items that would be appropriate to put into the contract with the Government. Peter said that his paper showed the County level attempt in producing a list of 25 priorities which he had compared to the Council and LSP priorities. He urged a discussion on these items and how they tie in with the LSP’s Community Plan and are there any we have missed.

Peter said it was not essential that all of the 25 priorities were linked, each town will have a specific list but need not necessarily have all of the priorities. There are some items we can strongly support and others we will have very little impact on.

Following a useful discussion and examining the proposed Devon priorities it was agreed that the following comments and suggestions be put to Devon County Council. In general it was felt that the ‘level of detail’ of the different priorities was unequal, with some specific and some very general.

- “1. Transportation accessibility is a vital link in rural areas. However this is not a clear priority in the current proposals. Firstly we would like to suggest that, as young people and older people can especially be affected, so these should be the priority areas of focus. Within this we feel that accessibility of health and leisure amenities are of particular importance. Community transport opportunities must not be overlooked.
2. Wish to see emphasis on local transport feeder systems into the town hubs.
3. Insufficient emphasis on preventative health services.
4. There is no priority around Benefits advice and information.
5. We would like to see the “empowered influential communities” phrase amended to read “empowered, cohesive and influential communities”. There is always a risk that otherwise only the vocal minority becomes influential.

6. There is a need to achieve more sustainable funding for essential third sector services (reliance on the Lottery is inappropriate).
7. Facilities for Young People is not covered in the 25 priorities. We need to see a minimum standard and accessible to all.
8. We are concerned that the increase of road deaths and injuries is not reflected in the priorities.”

Peter concluded by saying that as individuals/organisational groups members were welcome to feed in as individuals.

The Chairman thanked Peter for his paper and said that the LSP was keen to become involved in the next level of detail on the LAA priorities.

***124 Review of the LSP and Community Plan – proposal for next meeting**

Peter said that members will recall discussing this at their last meeting when it was agreed that they would consider new ideas for future thinking and how the LSP goes about its business. Peter said no views had been received.

He said that one of the things that had been discussed was the way the LSP focuses on ‘Communities’. At the last meeting of the LSP Officer Group it was suggested to do a pilot for the LSP’s next meeting by exploring one part of the district and focus specifically on the LSP priorities. Following the MCTi and neighbourhood assessment it was decided to look at Axminster.

Peter said he would now ask partners to gather the necessary statistics and invite a representative from the MCTi/Axminster Community Enterprise (ACE) to the next meeting of the LSP on the 2nd April 2008.

***125 Fun in the Sun event**

Peter said that in view of the LSP funding this very successful event the LSP had asked to talk to the young people that were involved and receive their feedback and also to find out what the LSP can learn for future projects.

It was agreed that Sue would contact Penny Fildew (Devon Youth Service) and agree with her a date and time (28 February 2008 – 5 p.m. at Seaton Town Hall) was suggested. Sue would send a notification to all nearer the date.

It was also agreed to ask Penny if she could talk to the Youth Service re future projects.

***126 Any other business**

1. Liz Wood produced the Department of Health’s white paper on “Valuing People Now – from progress to transformation”. The paper is an update to “Valuing People” published in 2001 and sets out the priorities for the provision of services for people with learning disabilities over the years 2008-2011. It has been developed based on the views of a range of stakeholders.

Liz asked for consideration to be given to the paper which links in with the LAA’s priorities. The consultation process closes on 11th March 2008. Website link:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/Learningdisabilities/index.htm>

2. Becky said that Dr. Pat Riordan, Director for the PCT (Exeter area) has resigned from the Devon PCT. Her post has not as yet been filled.
3. Councillor Margaret Rogers said she would be sending Sue an email which gave information relating to "Fatalities on Devon's Roads" and asked Sue to circulate to all LSP members.

***127 Date and venue of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership would be held on Wednesday 2nd April 2008, 9.15 a.m. in the Committee Room, Knowle, Sidmouth.

Signed

Date

Chairman LSP – Councillor Miss Sara Randall Johnson