

# **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Report of the Annual General Meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held in the Committee Room, East Devon District Council on Wednesday, 16th July 2008**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Sara Randall Johnson (Chairman)	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Jill Elson (Communities Portfolio holder)	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Chris Tratt	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Barry Nicholson	Devon County Council
	Peter Jeffs (Culture)	East Devon District Council
	John Golding (Housing)	East Devon District Council
	Matt Dickins (Planning)	East Devon District Council
	Superintendent Phil Kennedy	LPA Commander - Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
	Becky Carmichael (PCT)	Devon PCT
	Roger Grainger	Devon County Council
	Lorraine Gillanders (work experience)	Devon County Council
	Rev. Peter Brain	
	Vernon Whitlock	Devon Towns Forum
	Nikki Phillips (Speaker)	DCC Early Years & Childcare Service
	Councillor Viv Ash (invited)	East Devon District Council
	Elli Pang	AGILE/Ottery St. Mary & District Later Life Forum
	Helen Harman	East Devon VSA
	Sue Parkinson	Secretariat

The meeting started at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 11.10 a.m.

### **\*1 Election of Chairman**

Peter Jeffs called for nominations:

Appointed as Chairman                      Councillor Sara Randall Johnson  
(Proposed Cllr Jill Elson and seconded Cllr Barry Nicholson)

The Chairman thanked all present for voting for her and said that the challenges that were facing everyone today were getting worse. She highlighted the issue of the cost of fuel and whether the community at large could afford to keep themselves warm this coming winter.

The Chairman said that the closure of Post Offices would have an adverse effect on the district's elderly citizens and could mean isolation for a lot of people. She felt this was an area where the LSP should look at in more detail.

### **\*2 Appointment of Vice Chairman**

Appointed as Vice Chairman                      Becky Carmichael  
(Proposed Cllr Sara Randall Johnson – seconded Cllr Jill Elson)

### **\*3 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

\*4 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Margaret Rogers	Devon County Council
Councillor Stuart Hughes	Devon County Council
Paul Walker (East Devon Commander)	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Malcolm Sherry (Business Sector)	East Devon Chamber of Commerce
Leslie Smith	Devon Association of Parish Councils
Liz Wood	DCC Learning Disabilities

\*5 **Minutes of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008**

The Minutes of the meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

\*6 **Presentation on Phase 3 Children Centres in Ottery St. Mary, Sidmouth, Axe Valley, Clyst Vale and Exmouth**

Nikki Phillips, Senior District Co-ordinator to the Early Years & Childcare Service, was invited, on behalf of Kerry Thorne, East Devon District Co-ordinator of the Early Years and Childcare Service (who was unable to attend), to speak to the LSP on the phase 3 development, in East Devon, to develop centres in four further areas. These areas are based on the Learning Communities of Axe Valley, Clyst Vale, Ottery St Mary and Sidmouth. Nikki produced a handout.

Nikki said that Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's commitment to improving life chances for all children and families and form a key part of the delivery of early years services by local authorities. They are crucial to the implementation of the Government's ten year childcare strategy and contribute to improving the child outcomes set out in Every Child Matters: being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, economic wellbeing and making a positive contribution. Children's Centres aim to develop integrated multi-disciplinary services (preferably co-located) that provide personalised support to children and their families.

Children's Centres are primarily aimed at parents and carers with children under five years old but will work closely with other initiatives such as Extended Schools so that families are able to access childcare and other services as children move into school.

Nikki said that Children's Centres will provide a range of services depending on the local need and parental choice. They aim to offer information, advice and support to fathers, mothers and carers, as well as integrated childcare and early learning, health services, family support, parental outreach and employment advice. Services will not be the same everywhere, because needs and communities vary greatly, but the greatest resource for Children's Centres will go to the children in most need.

In East Devon, as part of the Phase 2 development there are childrens centres in both Honiton and Exmouth. Exmouth is based at Moorfield Road, next to Marpool Primary School, and Honiton is based in Honiton Bottom Road next to the Littletown Primary School.

Steering Groups have been formed for Axe Valley, Clyst Vale and a joint group for Ottery and Sidmouth. Meetings of these groups are being held every 6/8 weeks. Membership of the groups includes Councillor, PCT (health visitors, speech and language, maternity) Jobcentre Plus, Learning Communities, Family Learning, Extended Services Co-ordinator, Early Years Co-ordinator and parents where possible. She explained that as the year moves on (January 2009) the steering group will become what is known as the Core Officer Monitoring Group. The steering groups are being asked to send a representative to sit on the tender evaluation panel that is looking for the responsible bodes for the four new proposed centres in order to ensure local representation.

Following a useful and lengthy discussion the Chairman thanked Nikki for her presentation and detailed paper on this subject. She said that the LSP may well at some stage want to ask some more specific questions. She also asked if Nikki could feed back to Kerry and for her to let us know who are the Members on the Steering Groups.

**\*7 “Honiton satisfaction with area” report**

John Golding referred to his paper and said that in May 2008, a report was prepared for the Housing Review Board which investigated tenant satisfaction levels in Honiton and its surrounding parish, which were highlighted in the 2006 STATUS survey. John said it was noticed that whilst overall levels of tenant satisfaction was high (top quartile performance) Honiton scored consistently less well.

He said that in trying to establish a cause for Honiton’s relatively poor performance a comparison of two recent surveys, the 2006 Tenant Satisfaction Survey, and the 2007 Exeter & Torbay Housing Assessment Local Area Report for East Devon (ETHMA), was undertaken.

Both contained valid information; however also comparing this information with another survey the 2007 General User Satisfaction Survey, allowed us the opportunity to drill down a little further and find more detail from a wider range of residents.

Issues highlighted from the Tenant Satisfaction Survey and the additional information from the general needs survey were included in his paper.

John said that this item was put before the Officer Group and it was decided to ask the LSP whether or not to undertake an area profile similar to the Axminster work.

Following a useful debate Peter Jeffs summed up by asking how the results of this analysis could be relayed back to the people of Honiton, to which Vernon replied that he could present the report to the Honiton MCTi or even through their newsletter “Talk of the Town”.

It was agreed that the “Honiton satisfaction with area” report be relayed to the Honiton MCTi for their comments. Vernon to report back.

The Chairman thanked John for his report.

**\*8 Local Area Agreement (LAA)**

Peter Jeffs referred to his handout which listed the latest suggestions EDDC’s priority areas for the LAA, hopefully reflecting the needs of East Devon. He said that some of these priorities have a greater pertinence for East Devon whilst others are clearly related to specific DCC responsibility across the whole of Devon. He explained that when the final document is sent to the Government Office there will be a page relating to each of the LA districts showing how they would support the whole picture.

He said that the Officer Group had a final look at the document and it was agreed to present it here today and welcomed comments from the floor which included:

- LAA 13 - regard to mental well being to be included
- LAA 16 - culture to be built in and monitored by the Officer Group
- LAA 33 – to be monitored by the Officer Group

Councillor Jill Elson referred to LAA 33 (Warm Zones) and said that the Environmental Health Manager (Meryl Spencer) in April this year held a Devon Warm Zones seminar at the Exmouth Town Hall. Cllr Elson felt Meryl should be asked to attend the next meeting of the LSP and present a report.

Councillor Nicholson also referred to LAA 33 and said that in his neighbourhood several elderly, partially blind residents over 70 years of age had received mail advertising free insulation for lofts/cavity wall. Being partially blind they were unable to read the mail and did not realise they could get their house insulated for free.

Peter Jeffs summed up by saying that in reviewing the final LAA priorities reference was made to the need to ensure dignity and respect for all in LAA 16 as well as in LAA 9, and that Culture would have a part to play in LAA16.

The Chairman agreed that:

- 1) Councillor Nicholson would look into the issue he raised and to feed back at next meeting
- 2) Arrangements be made for the Environmental Health Manager to attend the Autumn meeting of the LSP and present a report on the Devon Warm Zone project being carried out at Exmouth
- 3) East Devon's LAA priorities be submitted to Devon County Council.

The Chairman thanked Peter for the work he had done on this.

**\*9 Date and venue of next meeting**

The list and venue of the LSP's dates for 2008/2009 were agreed.

**\*10 Community Compact – Relationships between the statutory and the voluntary community sectors – for information item**

Peter Jeffs referred to his paper on the Community Compact and reminded the LSP that they had previously signed up to the Devon-wide Compact with the community and voluntary sector, and that the Government expects each area to have such a Compact. He explained that there were a number of other more detailed documents that made up and supported the Compact and people engaged with this sector need to be aware that these standards of working need to be adhered to.

**\*11 Any other Business**

- 1) Peter Jeffs said that earlier that morning Malcolm Sherry (East Devon Chamber of Commerce) had called at the offices to hand deliver for the Chairman a letter from the Sidmouth International School, to the Sidmouth Herald relating to alleged racial abuse of children who attend the Sidmouth International School involving children being verbally and physically abused in the street. He also said that coincidentally there had been an alleged racial harassment case in Exmouth recently.

The Chairman said she would like a report back from Malcolm on this at their next meeting.

- 2) Councillor Jill Elson felt there was a need to try and get a representative from youth and education to sit on the LSP.

Signed .....

Date .....

Chairman LSP – Councillor Miss Sara Randall Johnson