

*4 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on the 8th April 2009 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

*5 **Matters arising from the Minutes**

Minute 30 **'Single Conversation'** - Peter Jeffs referred to the former Chairman's concern about the potential disruption of planned projects following a presentation she had attended given by the Homes and Communities Agency called 'single conversation'. The former Chairman had been under the impression that the single area will not be pan Devon but on County Council boundaries and that Plymouth was having discussions with Cornwall as well as South Hams and West Devon so cross-border issues were possible. The former Chairman felt that joint partnerships like the Blackdown Hills might lose out on funding if South Somerset and West Dorset are not included, and requested Matt Dickins to investigate this and report back.

Matt Dickins said he had looked into this and said that in Devon there had not been co-ordinated initiatives to date though they are planned. A meeting was due to be held at County on Monday 20th July 2009, where all Devon Chief Executives were to be invited. Matt said this was a starting point for Devon but that Somerset was further forward. He said that all Local Authorities needed to produce investment plans. Also there would be a 'single conversation' for Devon and also one for the New Growth Point Area (Exeter and part of East Devon and part of Teignbridge).

Peter Jeffs asked if there were any steps we should be taking to ensure a "fair slice of the cake" and which groups around the table will be involved?

John Golding said that he and Cllr Miss Elson had attended a meeting with the Communities and Homes Agency and from a housing point of view had also been invited to a meeting at County Hall. John said he was also engaged at a number of levels to ensure affordable housing for Cranbrook.

Matt Dickins concluded by saying that the LSP should be part of the single conversation working.

The Chairman thanked Matt for his response and it was agreed to place the 'single conversation' on the October agenda of the LSP.

32 Peter Jeffs referred to Minute 23 ("Core Strategy" and "Issues and Options" report update) where he had prepared a briefing note for the former Chairman to present to the Devon Strategic Partnership. To date no feedback has been received.

Report back on possible LINKS assistance when addressing issues of blind/elderly people receiving mail advertising free insulation etc.

Peter Jeffs briefly recapped on the possible LINKS assistance but said that unfortunately Helen Harman had given her apologies and would report back at the LSP's October meeting.

***6 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Miss Sara Randall Johnson	East Devon District Council
Councillor Peter Bowden	Devon County Council
Simon Wood	East Devon Chamber of Commerce
Elli Pang	AGILE/Ottery St. Mary & District Later Life Forum
Superintendent Phil Kennedy	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

***7 Place Survey 2008/09, and what does this mean for LSP priorities**

Jamie Buckley, the Council's Engagement and Funding Officer, presented the "Place Survey" and explained that the survey was sent out by the Council on behalf of national government to 2,476 randomly selected households in East Devon between September and December 2008. The purpose was to gain information that would improve outcomes for local people and places, so many of the questions were more relevant to East Devon as a place rather than East Devon District Council. The survey would be carried out every 2 years.

1,263 completed questionnaires were returned which gave a response rate of 51%, higher than in many other district council areas. Jamie said the Survey had been presented to all of the Council's Committees but there was not a lot of comparative information available at the current time and indicated that she would like to come back to the LSP with the final results.

Jamie then ran through her presentation and the results.

Following a useful question and answer session the following comments were noted:

- Liz Wood said that people with learning disabilities especially would find the questionnaire difficult to answer and said that there was a 'learning disability parliament' that could assist in getting the questions answered. Jamie said she would feed that back to the Government.
- Public transport may be an area for the Devon Strategic Partnership to look at.
- Concern about schools not wishing to participate in 'extended schools' (community uses)
- Concern about the nature of society that is portrayed by the survey
- Survey promotes questions – it needs a follow up conversation and to connect with representative from the groups of the communities where problems were especially highlighted.

Peter Jeffs referred to the graph 'What do residents want public services to prioritise' and commented that there was a need to identify cross agency areas when looking at our own priorities in the LSP's Community Plan. Some are included but not all of them as they are not prime drivers for the LSP. He said there may be a need to refresh the Community Plan.

It was agreed that the top 5 priorities:

1. Affordable decent housing
2. Public transport
3. Activities for teenagers
4. Road and pavement repairs
5. Wage levels and local cost of living

be placed on a future agenda for the LSP and speakers to be invited.

Jamie was thanked for her presentation and it was agreed she would be asked to attend the LSP meeting in January 2010 to follow up.

*8 **Schools input into the East Devon LDF**

Roger Grainger introduced his colleague from Devon County Council, Gareth Bradford, Senior Planning Officer, to talk about 'Infrastructure Planning and East Devon'.

Gareth referred to his presentation and said infrastructure planning and East Devon was a complicated and difficult area with schools involvement needing to be seen from their perspective as a provider, with the County Council taking the strategic view for the future. Some of the work Gareth is trying to do is to join up infrastructure needs into one strategic direction, create policies that enable its delivery and in a more sustainable context. One of the key points is trying to look at what infrastructure is needed and trying to see how they can all be brought together to match resources, and funding, and looking at it in an integrated manner not in silos. Gareth pointed out that it was vital to get it right as a fundamental element of having a sound LDF.

Gareth said that the regional infrastructure had been put into place for Cranbrook, the new bridge, building schools for the future, all of which require a vision for our area and the infrastructure that is needed.

He said that Devon County Council's approach was to try to produce strategies on a market town basis for the 29 market towns. Townspeople will only get 1 consultation and 1 document to comment on. The LSPs need to know why they need the infrastructure – clear vision and clear priorities. Local Authorities have previously failed on this as they do not know what the local priorities are.

Gareth said that cross border links, and multi agency approaches are being looked at e.g. transport link with Cornwall – East Devon and Dorset talking about school pupils intake – Woodroffe School. He also said that based on the infrastructure the funding that comes from the Government is not equal to the full cost of building a school and there will always be funding gaps.

Gareth said there was a need to explore the potential for co-location of services – joined up thinking and the need to show deliverability.

Gareth then highlighted the key issues for the LDF to consider:

- Secondary education in Exmouth
- Infrastructure deficits – focus on mitigating impacts of new development
- Planning for uncertainty (e.g. public funding, housing market recovery)
- Robustness of demographic projections (e.g. pupil numbers)

- Special educational needs, Children’s Centres and Youth Provision
- Phasing of infrastructure provision and capacity issues
- Optimum size for primary and secondary schools
- Future arrangements for Children’s Services
- Costing infrastructure requirements and identifying where funding will come from
- Need for a clear justification

Gareth then gave the LSP his concluding points:

- Wide-ranging infrastructure impacts (e.g. transport, education) need to be considered in an integrated way
- Increasing depth of evidence needed to justify what infrastructure is required and its relationship to spatial strategy and vision
- Statutory requirement
- Significant Challenge – what infrastructure is needed over the next 20 years – why? And how it will be funded?

Following a question and answer session the following comments were noted:

- Schools playing fields – need to maximise use with other voluntary organisations. Voluntary and community organisations using playing school fields within Mid Devon District Council’s area
- Need to reach agreement with Clubs for their facilities to be used out of hours
- Need to involve the voluntary and community sector
- Need extra care housing where support on site
- Issue about what is optimum size for a school
- Work around schools - concern about trying to put together an LDF and if it can be replicated for the Community Plan without EDDC approaching individual agencies
- Ongoing dialogue between Counties concerning major roads

The Chairman thanked Gareth for attending and presenting his paper.

***9 Proposed Dates of future meetings**

The list and venue of the LSP’s dates for 2009/2010 were agreed.

***10 Any other business**

- 1) Peter Jeffs referred to his handout “Devon Strategic Partnership – Joint Declaration for Equality” and said that organisations who sign up to this recognise the importance of putting the needs of people first. He said this was a good declaration and if the LSP were happy with the declaration, he would on their behalf sign the document and notify agencies accordingly.

The Chairman agreed that the LSP sign the Devon Strategic Partnership’s Joint Declaration for Equality.

- 2) Liz Wood referred to her handout “Key actions for making Valuating People Now happen locally and regionally – local authorities (2009-12)” and explained this was an update to her paper presented to the LSP at its April 2009 meeting. The document bullet points the documents previously presented.

Liz said that following the setting up of a Parliament system for people with a learning disability, a scheme around the setting up of local town groups will be piloted in Sidmouth. The aim of the group is to draw together members of the local community who have an interest in improving the access that people with learning disabilities have to activities and amenities in the local area.

***11 Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership would be held on Wednesday 21st October 2009 at 9.15 a.m. for 9.30 a.m. start in the Committee Room.

Signed

Date

Chairman LSP – Councillor Miss Jill Elson