

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of a Meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held at the East Devon Business Centre, Honiton on Monday, 12 July 2004

Present:	Councillor Sara Randall Johnson	East Devon District Council
	Ali Round	East Devon Primary Care Trust
	Peter Jeffs	East Devon District Council
	Clare Brewster	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Tony Wilkinson	East Devon District Council/PCT
	John Golding	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Andrew Moulding	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Jill Elson	East Devon District Council
	Nigel Harrison	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Margaret Rogers	Devon County Council
	Elli Pang	AGILE
	Lynda Price	East Devon Primary Care Trust
	Trevor Day	Devon & Torbay Learning Partnership
	Bob Buskin	East Devon Chamber of Commerce
Sue Tucker	East Devon Volunteer Support Agency	
Apologies:	Councillor Kathleen Bamsey	Devon County Council
	Sue Craythorne	Devon County Council
	Geoff Hulley	East Devon Enterprise Agency
	Alison Swain	Learning Disability Service

The meeting commenced at 2:30pm and terminated at 4:30pm.

*1 **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor Sara Randall Johnson be elected Chairman of the Local Strategic Partnership for the ensuing year

*2 **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED that Ali Round be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Local Strategic Partnership for the ensuing year

*3 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on 26 April 2004, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*4 **Sustainable Development Appraisal of the Community Plan**

Consideration was given to a sustainable development appraisal circulated with the agenda. A central government powerpoint presentation highlighting the main points in the appraisal was also received. It was reported that the four elements of sustainable development were integration, wider impacts, long term and participation. Government guidance stated that community strategies should contribute to sustainable development and consideration was given to how LSPs and community strategies could do more for sustainable development. It was noted that virtually everything the LSP did was contributing to sustainable development. The creation of 'sustainable communities' required attention to be given to the wider picture rather than just looking at the problems and gaps.

It was agreed that the current the community planning process, without firm links to the land use planning system, and to local Parish Plans etc was lacking local relevance and clear geographical connections to the strategic level. However, this would be addressed through the district planning process and area studies. There was also agreement that involvement of the community was essential to the development and delivery of a 'living' community plan and the achievement of real sustainable communities.

*5 **Draft Sub Regional Economic Development Strategy**

East Devon District Council's Economic Development Manager introduced Bob Buskin, Chairman of the East Devon Federation of Chambers of Commerce, to his first meeting of the LSP.

The Economic Development Manager explained that the Sub Regional Economic Development Strategy set out a framework for the Exeter and Heart of Devon sub-region, to provide a vision for the sub-region and a working strategy for the Exeter and Heart of Devon Economic Partnership. One purpose of the Sub Regional Economic Development Strategy was to identify the issues tackled most effectively by the public and private stakeholders in the area. In September there would be further consideration of the East Devon Economic Development Strategy.

Those present discussed the economic leakage out of East Devon towns to places such as Exeter, Taunton and Bristol as there was currently a difference of 16,000 people between the economically active population and jobs available in the area. However, for economic development for both employers and employees it was necessary to have a free flow of labour. It was noted that some movement was affected by house prices as many people chose to commute rather than to move house. Concern was expressed that in Exmouth a large proportion of people had no option but to go elsewhere to find employment and for retail purposes and a request was made to free up employment land in order to bring the balance back to allow great sustainability and viability.

Employers were faced with the challenge of thinking of different ways of working, such as home working. At present a huge number of companies were not making use of ICT. It was felt that education services were not flexible enough, although this was improving.

It was felt that the draft strategy was a fairly traditional model, concentrating too much on paid work. It was hoped that the East Devon Economic Development Strategy would emphasise the role of the voluntary sector, and would also acknowledge the huge spending power, knowledge and expertise of the retired sector.

Those present were invited to forward any further comments on to the Economic Development Manager following the meeting.

***6 Diversity in East Devon**

Ricky Croal, Diversity Support Officer, had been to the meeting of the LSP to explain his role with Devon and Cornwall Police Constabulary and give his views of diversity in East Devon. The LSP welcomed the Diversity Support Officer. He had a wide remit working with all minority groupings across East and Mid Devon. All crimes reported as 'hate crimes' were checked internally with the police and every incident was crimed for statistic purposes, and a log would be kept open for seven days. It was noted that where English was a second language every effort would be made to look for other means of communication.

The Diversity Support Officer regularly attended multi-agency meetings, forged connections with the community, liaised with other agencies (in order to exchange information and cross work) and was involved in exchanging information across the police force. His main task was to bring together the police and communities in order to forge a better relationship and to encourage incidents to be reported.

Discussion took place over crime statistics and it was agreed that increasing reporting of crimes/incidents was an educational issue. At present there was a lot of underreporting due to a lack of confidence that identities would be protected. It was noted that the crime figures for East Devon were low.

On behalf of the LSP, the Chairman thanked Ricky Croal for his report.

***7 Revised Community Plan for Consultation**

The revised Community Plan was noted. A request was made to discuss the work of the Devon Partnership Trust at a future meeting of the LSP, with the Chief Executive of the Devon Partnership Trust being invited to attend.

***8 EDPCT – Community Services Development Plan**

Those present welcomed the EDPCT Community Services Development Plan, which had been circulated with the agenda for information. A detailed review of community services had been carried out by the Primary Care Trust. It was reported that there were plans to improve dental facilities in the district and that another focus for hospitals would be on preventative work.

***10 Update on the Devon Compact**

The LSP received a verbal update on the Devon Compact. The Devon Compact was an agreement on partnership working between community agencies and the voluntary sector. One statutory representative and one voluntary sector representative from each LSP in Devon formed part of the hub. There were a number of agencies which had to sign up to the Compact which was currently being written.

***11 Sub Group Updates**

Consideration was given to a number of report templates from the LSP sub-groups which had been circulated at the meeting. A couple of brief verbal updates were also received. It was noted that it was important for the LSP to be very aware of what was going on in the sub-groups. Each section of the Community Plan was supported by a sub-group which would be coming up with strategies. The report templates provided information as well as the opportunity for feedback.

*12 **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership would be held at 3:30pm on Tuesday, 12 October 2004, at the East Devon Business Centre, Honiton.

Chairman Date.....