

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held in the Council Chamber, East Devon District Council on Wednesday 27th October 2010

Present:	Councillor Jill Elson (Communities Portfolio holder)	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Bob Buxton	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Brenda Taylor	Devon County Council
	Peter Jeffs (Culture)	East Devon District Council
	John Golding	East Devon District Council
	Matt Dickins (Planning)	East Devon District Council
	Ali Eastland	Devon County Council
	Rev. Peter Brain	Faith
	Elli Pang	AGILE, Ottery Later Life Forum, & Ottery Health and Care Team
	Roger Trapani	Senior Council for Devon (Seaton & Area branch)
	Sue Parkinson	Secretariat

Presentation by: Matt Dickins – Principal-al Planning Officer, EDDC

The meeting started at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 10.50 a.m.

***50 Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present.

The Chairman took the opportunity to mention the current economic situation and the need for urgent savings to be made. She said that EDDC would be reviewing all of its Committees as Members needed to reduce their workload. She also pointed out the lack of attendance at this, and recent meetings of the LSP and said the future of the LSP would also need to be considered. The Chairman said that public bodies needed to maintain and improve their links with the voluntary sector however which will be a part of the “Big Society”.

Peter Jeffs added that if any member on the LSP wished to comment on the restructure/abolition of the LSP could they please let the Chairman or him know.

***51 Minutes of the LSP held 15 July 2010**

The Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the East Devon Local Strategic Partnership held on the 15th July 2010 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

***52 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Miss Sara Randall Johnson
Councillor Peter Bowden

East Devon District Council
Devon County Council

Liz Wood

Lucy O'Loughlin
Lisa Rutter

Devon Learning Disabilities Health &
Social Care
NHS Devon
Devon Youth Service

*52 **Presentation on the LDF Core Strategy**

Matt Dickins, Principal Planning Officer, referred to the "LDF Preferred Approach Consultation" document http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/plg-ldf_full_doc_7m.pdf currently out to consultation until the 30th November. Matt said the purpose of today's presentation was to obtain a response from the LSP.

A summary of this consultation document can be seen at ..
http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/plg-ldf-summary_ax_changes.pdf

Matt said that the Core Strategy will form part of the East Devon Local Development Framework. It will help set out what we want East Devon to be like in the years to come, the type of development we want to see and where it should occur and what benefits it will bring to our communities.

Matt then ran through his power point presentation, a paper copy of which can be obtained from Sue.

The presentation's themes consisted of:

- Key issues
- Role of the Core Strategy
- Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategy
- What the core strategy says
- Some Strategic themes
- Why is it of importance to the LSP
- How can you help

The Chairman thanked Matt for his presentation and invited comments from the Members:

Comments:

1) Cllr Miss Elson (EDDC) - Exmouth

- Balanced community needed
- Concern over education (need houses for students etc) and health, including future community hospital provision
- Access – buses – cars – trains – physical access as opposed to phone/internet

2) Cllr Brenda Taylor (DCC) – Exmouth

- Concern over large numbers of houses planned including 2,000 houses at St.John's Wood
- No mention of Valley Parks in the document
- Number of houses planned not sustainable
- No facilities and feel it is unsustainable
- Wrong to put the houses on the edge of Woodbury
- Not good road links – need to improve the A376

3) Cllr Bob Buxton (EDDC)

- Hub Village – Dunkeswell - good industrial estate providing jobs
- School needed in Dunkeswell – children travel elsewhere
- Opportunity for Dunkeswell bypass – land available – avoid lorries going through village
- Honiton – Honiton Members want housing at the east end of the town and a bypass to avoid heavy vehicles using the High Street
- Disagree that no infrastructure available at east, and to build at west. If development took place at east the development should then provide the bypass

Roger Trapani – Senior Council for Devon

- 12 major elements to the Strategy – difficult to deliver
- Gap in education and health – no separate documents – need those elements
- People in Seaton may well be cynical about the document
- Seaton traditional area – green tourism
- Seaton saw the closure of a 400 bed leisure site only to be replaced with a supermarket
- Seaton needs “simple” infrastructure – e.g. bus shelters
- Ward Members arguing very strongly for Seaton
- Opportunity to challenge because of the costs involved

Elli Pang

- Absence of transport issues – fear of traffic jams when supermarket completed – feels Highways Agency not taken that into consideration
- Lack of schools
- If services in the community for health and social care are expanded then this model is welcomed – in reality it has flaws and inability to work around
- Quality of life may not improve
- Concern over factory site – listed building – could be there for 20 years – listed building
- West Hill site – flexible boundaries worrying residents

Rev. Peter Brain (Faith)

- Agree with Cllr Brenda Taylor over number of homes to be provided in Exmouth
- Document gives impression that it is a cluster rather than a place of feeling belonging and makes it difficult with planners
- What is the evidence on what this is based – is it mood of people or grass roots impression
- Unless there is enough development it will not generate the social housing and infrastructure in e.g. Exmouth, a catch 22

John Golding (EDDC)

- If there is any chance of delivering the affordable housing this will require development close to the RSS aspirations for total housing numbers
- Real concern is how the delivery mechanisms are going to work
- Less public sector money available
- Developers unable to deliver affordable housing on sites

- Unclear where jobs are going
- Unclear where the community infrastructure will go

Ali Eastland (DCC)

- DCC's response to the document being put together
- Touring area with Leader of DCC about County 'tough decisions'. Residents have said that they had received the LDF mail-shot but some found it confusing.

Peter Jeffs (EDDC)

The core priorities of the Sustainable Community Plan may not be emphasised enough in the Strategy (sustainability, equality and engagement). He said 'sustainability' had been tested and done, equality less so. He asked how do we make sure we have got things in the plan that address all parts of the society – may need to be something in the Strategy to address each of the sectors of the community. 'Engagement' needs to be added to the document and how we address that issue.

The Chairman thanked Members for their comments and the following key points were highlighted:

- 1) The way in which the housing allocation had been spread around – should there be development in those areas that want it and where there is existing community Infrastructure.
- 2) Education and health – better recognition of health and home and specialise care – opportunity for living not just being kept alive.
- 3) Overcome cynicism – handling localism.
- 4) Trying to make sure that the aspirations in the document recognises peoples' past experiences
- 5) At a local level people do not want to think about the 'grander' issues – need to capture the fine grain issues – e.g. bus shelters
- 6) Transport – ensure an integrated vision.
- 7) Does East Devon exist as one place or are we trying to pick up on individual areas.
- 8) Housing – ensure clear mechanism for delivery.
- 9) Employment – ensuring employment for young people – ensure jobs and housing match.
- 10) Ensure Town/Parish Plans are included/listed in the Strategy.
- 11) People's aspirations to be included.
- 12) Must not lose what we already value – local distinctiveness/culture, not all about development.

Peter Jeffs said he would provide a summary of the LSP's response and send it to Members for their approval.

***53 Any other business**

1) Future business

a) Elli asked if the LSP could at a future meeting have a debate on 'community engagement and third sector'.

The Chairman responded by saying that the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be looking at their stances on community engagement. It may well be that instead of there being an LSP there may well be a 'community engagement panel'. She added that there was a need to review all of the Committees.

The Chairman agreed to review Elli's request in the New Year following the review of Committees.

b) Cllr Bob Buxton requested a debate about education at a future meeting and asked if it was possible to invite Cllr Christine Channon.

2) LSP accountability

Rev. Peter Brain asked who the LSP was accountable to?

EDDC can probably choose not to support, host, or attend, the LSP but it is not a "Council committee" that the Council can unilaterally de-constitute.

***54 Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership would be held on Wednesday 26th January 2011, 9.15 a.m. for 9.30 a.m. start in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Knowle, Sidmouth.

Signed

Date

Chairman LSP – Councillor Miss Jill Elson

East Devon Local Strategic Partnership

Chairman: Cllr Miss Jill Elson

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Mr Matt Dickins
Planning Policy Manager
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Dear Matt

LDF Preferred Approach Consultation

On behalf of the Chairman, Cllr Jill Elson, and Members of the LSP, we would like to thank you for giving the LSP an opportunity to comment on this consultation.

At its recent meeting held 27th October 2010, and following your presentation, please find below the LSP's formal response:

- The housing allocations should be spread differently, the concentration of numbers on Exmouth does not seem to tie up with wishes of the town, nor is there an equality of allocation (compare Exmouth with Sidmouth for instance).
- Housing sites should be carefully chosen to take account of availability of infrastructure (eg Exmouth).
- Education needs to be future proofed, there is no evidence of this as yet.
- Health provision needs to be future proofed, there is no evidence of this yet. This is not just about treatment but also about ensuring health-encouraging (salutogenic) environments and opportunities. There also needs to be a balance between home care and specialist care provision in centres.
- In order to overcome community cynicism about allocations and the future planning decisions there need to be statements about: 1. why it will be different in future to the past 2. How we will address the localism agenda in Planning decisions 3. Explaining how small local ambitions (eg for a bus shelter) will be recorded and addressed in the Planning process.

- Transport. (ie physical access not just accessibility to information) – importance of ensuring an integrated approach across the District not add-ons.
- Address whether this document is about East Devon as a place with a single identity which needs to be strengthened or whether it is about a series of communities with their own separate and independent needs.
- Affordable Housing - needs to be a clear and understandable mechanism for delivery, explained.
- Employment: 1. Need to address the specific needs of young people who are currently worst affected 2.need to understand a clear relationship between jobs and houses 3.how many jobs are expected to be local to housing as opposed to commuting distance. This affects the numbers proposed in each location.
- Need to clearly understand what a sustainable village is- this is a more subtle issue than just a list of infrastructure, it is about what binds the community together now and for the future.
- Why is only housing specifically located on maps, what about business and infrastructure?
- As well as choosing what we want from new development there needs to be a clear statement of what we need to avoid losing (distinctiveness, open space etc).
- The future of Exmouth Valley Parks needs to be stated.
- The implementation of major community infrastructure (such as Honiton by-pass, Dunkeswell school, Ottermill switchgear development, Seaton tourist beds), need to be addressed where raised by communities.

Yours sincerely

Sue Parkinson
LSP Secretariat