

Developing the Devon Sustainable Community Strategy and the Second Generation Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

Report of the Community and Strategy Officer

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Members note the process, timetable and progress on the development of the priorities for the Sustainable Community Strategy.

1. Introduction

The Devon Strategic Partnership is responsible for developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for Devon, which will be published in October 2007. This Strategy will set out the main priorities for partners and local people to work on together over the next few years. The priorities in the SCS will be translated into action in the 2008-11 Devon Local Area Agreement, and these plans will be developed between October 2007 and March 2008.

2. Developing the Sustainable Community Strategy

"The role of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to set out the strategic vision for a place. It provides a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult cross-cutting issues such as the economic future of an area, social exclusion and climate change. Building these issues into the community's vision in an integrated way is at the heart of creating sustainable development at a local level."

(Extract from **Strong and Prosperous Communities Government White Paper November 2006**)

The Sustainable Community Strategy for Devon is being developed in 5 stages:

1. An evaluation of the existing Community Strategy to ensure relevant parts are carried forward into the new Sustainable Community Strategy.
2. The development of the evidence base - a web-based resource demonstrating the issues facing Devon.
3. Public consultation of issues and the development of a vision for Devon.
4. Prioritisation of issues.
5. The Strategy and action planning.

The first three phases of development have been completed and the DSP is currently working on the fourth phase.

The evidence base brought together a wide variety of data and views on 8 key cross-cutting themes – children and young people, culture, economy, energy, environment, health, housing, older people, safe communities and strong communities. The analysis included consideration of the District level community strategies, regional plans and public

consultation. Summary documents of the evidence base were refined in order to inform the prioritisation of issues.

At the heart of the SCS is the 'Vision for Devon'. This has been developed over the Spring 2007 and has involved:

- ◆ The DSP Partnership Board.
- ◆ The DSP Conference.
- ◆ 'Your Devon' - 6,000 households in Devon asking them in a survey to identify why they lived in Devon, what they would like the Devon of the future to be like and what the key challenges are for public agencies.
- ◆ Focus groups of 150 local people contributed their views.

The resulting vision for Devon states "We want Devon to be:

England's greenest county with the strongest local communities, that are prosperous and welcoming with an excellent quality of life and a sustainable future." (For full text of Vision see Appendix I.)

Currently the DSP is working on the priorities for the SCS. The DSP Delivery Board set up a task and finish group to consider the priorities for the SCS, produce a long list for public consultation via the Citizen's Panel and wider postal survey, and recommend a short list to the Partnership Board. The long list of priorities derived from the evidence, consultation to date and discussion among partners and members of the task and finish group are included as Appendix II. This is being tested with the Citizen's Panel and through a postal survey and a list of about 6 priorities will be recommended to the Partnership Board on 19 September. These six will be ratified at the Devon Strategic Partnership conference on 9 October 2007. The SCS will be published at the end of October and will include those complex issues, which can only be solved by a number of partners working together at county level.

3. Developing the 2008-11 Local Area Agreement (LAA)

"Local Area Agreements are about what sort of place you want to live in. They are about setting the strategic direction and focusing on the priorities that will make your town, city or community a better place to be. They are about place-shaping." (DCLG)

The new LAA will reflect the priorities in the SCS and will set out the actions that will contribute to making change happen in areas around Devon. Theme partnerships/working groups e.g. Safer Devon Partnership, Children's Trust, have been considering what the priorities in the long list mean for their future action plans. The DSP Conference on 9 October will look at the priorities and contribute to identifying actions that will address them. The results of these discussions, along with the mandatory outcomes from Government, will form part of the late Autumn negotiating round on the 2008-11 LAA with the Government Office.

There will be more emphasis in the new LAA on area based service delivery and so LAA action planning and negotiations will need to involve district level Local Strategic Partnerships as the outcomes are likely to include different targets for different areas of Devon as delivery becomes more locally sensitive. The revised governance arrangements anticipate a stronger performance monitoring role for members both at the DSP level and at County Committee level where monitoring of local targets is likely to take place from 2008.

4. Conclusion

Bringing the Sustainable Community Strategy more into alignment with the LAA is an important step forward, as is placing more emphasis on area based service delivery. Clearly, there will be an important role for County Committees in both ensuring delivery is being provided locally and that the impact of that delivery is being monitored.

Ian Hobbs

Electoral Divisions: All in Torridge

Local Government Act 1972

List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
None		

cr60907toc
sc/local area agreement
3 hq 120907

Vision for Devon for the Sustainable Community Strategy

The vision for Devon states:

“We want Devon to be:

England's greenest county with the strongest local communities, that are prosperous and welcoming with an excellent quality of life and a sustainable future. This means that we will:

- Work to ensure strong prosperous and inclusive communities with a sustainable and vibrant future.
- Support our County's world class natural environment and recognise the many opportunities it presents to contribute to the well being of the county.
- Drive a step change in the actions we take to address the challenges and seize the opportunities of climate change and to reduce our impact on the environment.
- Value diversity, using equality a guiding principle.
- Ensure maximum opportunities for all to enhance skills, encourage innovation, and make a positive contribution to Devon's economy.
- Value our County's young people.
- Ensure the availability and balance of appropriate housing for Devon's residents.
- Promote personal health and well-being for all so that people feel safe, are valued and can play an active role in shaping their communities.”

**Key Issues For Devon - Priority Issues for Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy
Long List for Public Consultation**

Membership of the Task and Finish Group

Asst Ch. Constable Bob Spencer,
Phil Norrey, Ch. Exec. DCC
Kevin Snee, Ch. Exec Devon PCT
Nicola Bulbeck, Ch. Exec Teignbridge District Council
Phil Collins, Area Manager (Devon & Cornwall) Natural England

1. Tackling Health Inequalities.

This means supporting those geographical communities and groups of people who, because of their social, environmental and economic circumstances, experience poorer health.

2. Inspiring young people to achieve their best and supporting them in tackling the issues that concern them most.

This means enabling and supporting all Devon's young people, particularly those in most need, to lead fulfilled and productive lives.
It also means addressing the issue of bullying and the need for appropriate transport to access social, education and employment opportunities.

3. Tackling behaviour that detracts from the quality of life in our communities.

This means dealing with behaviour that makes people feel unsafe in their homes and their local communities.
It also means tackling domestic violence.

4. Reducing alcohol and drug use.

This means addressing the causes and effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

5. Helping people to take an active part in shaping the places in which they live and the public services they receive.

This means ensuring people can influence decisions affecting their local area.
This means encouraging and assisting people to play a key part in developing their communities and shaping their future.

6. Making services more easily accessible.

This means addressing the rural isolation experienced by many of Devon communities by developing appropriate solutions.
It also means ensuring that all people (particularly the vulnerable and most disadvantaged) can access information about services.

7. Providing the right climate for enterprise and innovation, strengthening Devon's economy through productivity and reducing economic inequalities.

This means equipping the people and businesses of Devon with the right skills and infrastructure to be able to face future economic challenges and capture new opportunities.

By raising the productivity of Devon's businesses we aim to ensure that they and their employees are able to meet the challenges of an increasingly knowledge based, globalised, competitive market and ensure the long-term viability of the communities to which the businesses are linked.

It also means reducing economic inequalities within communities and between different areas of Devon by focusing on helping communities to help themselves to realise their potential. A key plank of this is by providing appropriate location based solutions to regenerate the (economically worst performing) 12 priority communities within Devon.

8. Encouraging constructive community living.

This means respecting and celebrating people's differences, whether that relates to age, sexuality, religious faith, ethnic group, race or gender.

It also means recognising the contribution cultural activity makes to community cohesion.

9. Adapting to and mitigating climate change.

This includes creating a low carbon future.

It also means managing flood risk across Devon.

It means reconnecting Devon's fragmented habitats to enable adaptation to climate change.

It also means maximising the opportunities provided by climate change.

10. Being less wasteful and managing waste more effectively.

This means encouraging a co-ordinated approach to waste management.

It also means encouraging re-use and recycling.

11. Protect and support Devon's natural environment and improving the look and feel of the places we live.

This means protecting Devon's environment in a way which also realises the benefits and opportunities it offers to the County's well-being.

It also means ensuring that people feel pride in their local built environment.

12. Planning for enough of the right kind of housing.

This means enabling the provision of housing to meet the needs of all.

13. Dealing with the opportunities and challenges of Devon's changing population.

This means:

Promoting choice, independence and well being through wide ranging support and services for people in their own homes and local community settings, wherever possible, and reducing reliance on institutional care and emergency/urgent care.

Developing support, services and facilities to meet the needs of an aging population, people with complex disabilities, long term conditions and people with mental health problems and their carers.

Maximising the contribution that all adults and carers in Devon can make to Devon's economy and community life.