

NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Minutes of a meeting of the NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE held at the Cedars Inn, Bickington Road, Barnstaple on Monday 10th October 2005 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Representing

Archdeaconry of Barnstaple: Reverend M. Jones
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: Inspector T. Davies and
Inspector V. Puffitt

Devon County Council: Councillor Cann

Devon Fire and Rescue Service: Mr A. Coxon

Exmoor National Park: Ms T. Roberts

Federation of Small Businesses: Mr M. Chappell

Job Centre Plus: Mrs A. Oliver

Local Community Alliances: Councillors Mrs Sim, D. Spear
and Mrs Webber.

Member of Parliament: Mr N. Harvey

North Devon College: Mr D. Morrish

North Devon Hospice: Mr D. Trueman

North Devon Voluntary Action Forum: Mrs P. Jackson

North Devon Volunteering Development Agency:

Mr P. Hamilton

Northern Devon Healthcare Trust: Dr. J. Roberts

North Devon District Council: Councillors Ms Davis, Lucas and
Mrs Shapland (Chairman)

Parish Councils: Councillors Fraser-Smith and Geen

Transform: Mr M. Taylor

Voluntary Sector: Mr B. Allen

Officers:

Devon County Council

I. Hobbs, County Community Strategy Officer

North Devon District Council

S. Pitcher - Executive Director, B. Holme - Head of
Community and Leisure Services, A. Austen - Senior Policy
Planner and Ms B. Greenslade - Member Services Co-
ordinator.

Also Present:

Mr A. Bell	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty/Countryside Development Officer
Ms K. James	Local Strategic Partnership Support Worker - North Devon and Exmoor Regeneration Company
Councillor Pat Ferguson	Torrige District Council

10 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2005 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE/MATTERS ARISING

(a) Biosphere: Outcomes of a meeting with Mayors from France

A. Bell reported on the outcomes of a delegation of French Mayors recent visit to North Devon. The Mayors had formed a syndicate to tackle problems affecting their coastline and visited North Devon to learn about the way the environment and economy was managed here. He stated that the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service and Leader+ hosted the visit. The Mayors visited the UNESCO Biosphere, Northam Burrows and the North Devon Marketing Bureau. The issue of beach litter, surfing and life saving were also discussed.

(b) Climate Change Conference - 5th October 2005

A. Bell reported on the outcomes of the Climate Change Conference held on 5th October 2005. He stated that 35 attendees had attended. He stated that the outcomes of the workshops held in the afternoon would be reported at a future meeting of the Alliance.

(c) Transform

M. Taylor stated that the two Neighbourhood Wardens had been well received by the public and were very active in the communities. He further stated that the public was now aware of the Wardens' roles and that they were not enforcers.

12 OUTCOME OF SUBMISSION TO THE CONSULTATION PAPER REGARDING PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS

The Alliance considered papers regarding the outcomes of a recent meeting of the Way Forward Group on key issues for commissioning a patient led NHS in Devon and options for re-configuring Primary Care Trusts in Devon (circulated previously).

S. Pitcher stated that the Devon County Council Health Overview/Scrutiny Committee had met on 29th September 2005 to formulate a view on the consultation paper and that the Strategic Health Authority would be meeting today to formulate its submission to the Secretary of State. The deadline for the submission to the Secretary of State was by 15th October 2005.

He stated that a further round of consultation on proposals would be carried out during November 2005.

N. Harvey raised concern regarding the short length of time given for the consultation period. He expressed concern as to how one Primary Care Trust for the whole of Devon, with one Executive Board Director from North Devon, would be held to account by local people. The purpose of Primary Care Trusts was to act as commissioning bodies to plan services locally and did not see how this could be achieved with one Primary Care Trust for the whole of Devon. The Trust needed to be based locally.

M. Taylor stated that there was a need for services to be provided with a direct local access.

Inspector Puffitt advised the Alliance that a paper regarding the re-organisation of the Police Service would be out for consultation before Christmas 2005.

Councillor Ferguson reported on the outcomes of a meeting of the Devon Districts Forum. The preference was for the minimum of three Primary Care Trusts to be provided for the whole of Devon.

D Trueman pointed out that there were examples of services organised Devon wide that delivered well locally and examples of locally developed services that were poor. He suggested that the issue was not which organisational arrangements were proposed but what outcomes in terms of quality of service were achieved. The link was also made to the Local Area Agreement process.

The Alliance noted the papers and awaited further consultation on the proposals during November/December 2005.

13 NORTHERN DEVON HEALTHCARE TRUST

Dr J. Roberts outlined Northern Devon Healthcare Trust's current financial position and the reasons for its financial situation. The Trust received £75.4 million from commissioning services. 70% of this was used for staffing. The Trust had a deficit of £2m a year. The Trust had broken even in the past by making savings in other ways. This year the Trust was facing a number of additional pressures that included: Agenda for Change (£1m), Consultants contract (£1m), Insurance premium increase (£300,000), utility risen by 70% and a number of other unfunded developments. The Primary Care Trust, as the Commissioning Body, was unable to provide any additional funding. The main aim of the Trust was to secure the future of the Hospital and to protect and strengthen its core services.

She further stated that the Trust's Board would consider the financial recovery plan on 18th October 2005. It would look at ways to save money, control costs and re-design its services. The next steps were to share this information with staff and external stakeholders; to consult on any proposed changes; to work in partnership with other organisations in particular the Primary Care Trust; and to continue to look at ways to control and save money.

In response to a question regarding staff finding out information regarding the Trust's financial position through the North Devon Journal, Dr Roberts stated that the Trust would be looking at ways of informing staff of any future changes.

14 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT: DELIVERY PLAN

The Alliance considered a paper regarding the Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan (tabled).

I. Hobbs stated that the Children and Young People Plan would be out for consultation shortly and that it was important that the Alliance made a response. He also stated that a copy of the Children Centre Proposals 2006-2010 would be circulated to all Members of the Alliance.

S. Pitcher stated that there was a need to link the work of the Children's Trust Locality Forum with the Alliance.

I. Hobbs stated he would ask Liz Hitchins, Chair of the Children's Trust Locality Forum to make a presentation at the next meeting of the Alliance.

In relation to "Safer and Stronger Communities", Councillor Cann stated that the Fire Authority had a role and that this role had not been included within the Delivery Plan.

M. Taylor stated that "fear of crime" should also be included within the Delivery Plan.

Councillor Ferguson stated that the issue of providing support to assist people coming off of drugs and alcohol should be included within the Plan.

Councillor Mrs Shapland highlighted the issue of the inequality of the purchased level of care that was provided to older people and stated that this issue should be highlighted within the Plan.

I. Hobbs stated that he will ensure that the Alliance is kept up to date with progress and suggested that key action areas should also be brought to the notice of all the local alliances.

15 REVISED COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2006-2009 AND DEVELOPING ACTION PLAN

The Alliance considered a paper regarding the Revised Community Strategy 2006 - 2009 and Developing Action Plan (tabled). The review of the Community Strategy would be completed by the end of March 2006. As part of the review process a workshop had been arranged for Members of the Alliance and this would be held on Wednesday 7th December 2005 at 1.30 pm at the Cedars Inn, Barnstaple.

16 EUROPEAN REGIONAL FUNDING

(a) Objective 2 Bidding Process: North Devon District Area

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by Brian Holme (circulated previously) regarding the Objective 2 bidding process for the North Devon District area.

(b) Devon Renaissance

B. Holme advised the Alliance of the projects that had been considered for funding by the Board at its meeting the previous week. He hoped that a number of projects would come to fruition within the next 12-18 months.

S. Pitcher stated that there would be no European funding locally for projects in the future. He said that it was possible that there may be a stream of funding following Leader +, but was unlikely. In the future North Devon would have to compete at a regional level for funding as the European funding would not be ring fenced.

B. Holme stated that the closing date for the submission of new innovative schemes was by the end of December 2005.

Councillor Cann requested that Councillors receive a briefing on the Yeo Valley Campus Development as the project had ramifications for other schools in Barnstaple.

S. Pitcher stated that North Devon District Council was currently producing a Renewable Energy Action Plan which would be completed during December 2005 and would be brought to the Alliance shortly.

17 WESTCOUNTRY AMBULANCE SERVICES NHS TRUST - UPDATE

Councillor Mrs Shapland stated that there was no representative from the Westcountry Ambulance Services Trust in attendance to present this item.

The Alliance considered and noted the paper (circulated previously) regarding an update on the Westcountry Ambulance Services NHS Trust.

18 EXMOOR CORE STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Alliance received a presentation by Tissie Roberts, Senior Planning Officer, Exmoor National Park regarding the Exmoor National Park Management Plan and the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

A copy of the presentation slides, Exmoor National Park Management Plan and a draft Vision Statement were tabled.

Members of the Alliance were requested to provide feedback on the Exmoor National Park Management Plan and the draft Vision Statement.

Councillor Ms Davis declared a personal interest in the above item as a Member of the Exmoor National Park Authority.

19 SIGNING UP TO THE COMPACT FOR DEVON

Members of the Alliance were invited to sign up to the Compact for Devon on behalf of their organisations.

A copy of the Executive Summary and registration form were tabled.

S. Pitcher stated that if Members were unable to sign up to the Compact for Devon at the meeting he requested that Members complete and return the registration forms as soon as possible.

**20 FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT NORTH DEVON STATEMENT
OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH PROPOSED
CHANGES**

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by Andrew Austen (circulated previously) regarding feedback on the draft North Devon Statement of Community Involvement.

21 JARGON BUSTER

The Alliance considered and noted a paper (circulated previously) regarding a Jargon Buster.

22 WORKSHOP - COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WORKSHOPS

The meeting adjourned to a workshop on Community Safety.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.