

NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Minutes of a meeting of the NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE held at the Cedars Inn, Bickington Road, Barnstaple on Monday 13th February 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Representing

Connexions: Mr M. Walker
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: Acting Chief Inspector
Davies and Inspector Puffitt
Devon County Council: Councillors Cann, Greenslade and
Mrs Jenkins
Devon Fire and Rescue Service: Mr A. Coxon and Mr K. Parfitt
Environment Agency: Mr K. Baker
Exmoor National Park: Ms R. McArthur
Federation of Small Businesses: Mr B. Wilson
Local Community Alliances: Councillor D. W. Spear
Member of Parliament: Mr N. Harvey
North Devon College: Mr D. Dodd
North Devon Homes: Mr J. Davies
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)
North Devon Primary Care Trust: Mrs T. Polak
Parish Councils: Councillors Fraser-Smith and Geen
Transform: Mr M. Taylor
Westcountry Ambulance Service NHS Trust: Mr M. Baddick
Zero 14 Plus: Ms S. Ackfield

Officers:

Devon County Council

I. Hobbs, County Community Strategy Officer, Ms A. Boyd, Assistant County Community Strategy Officer and J. Smith, Team Leader - Community and Strategy Officers.

North Devon District Council

S. Pitcher - Executive Director, J. Lee - Culture and Recreation Manager, M. Isaac - Community Development Co-ordinator and Ms B. Greenslade - Member Services Co-ordinator.

Also Present

Mr G. Smith	Neighbourhood Manager, Transform
Ms H. Frisby	Neighbourhood Warden, Transform
Mr A. Kellaway	Neighbourhood Warden, Transform

23 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2005 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

(a) Legal Services Commission

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that it had recently been announced that the Legal Services Commission would be withdrawing all of its funding for specialist support and advice on complex cases relating to housing, debt, welfare benefits, immigration, employment and money issues.

P. Ackrill, Manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau reported that a letter had been sent to Nick Harvey MP to express the Bureau's concern and disappointment regarding the decision made by the Legal Services Commission as it would adversely affect the most vulnerable in society.

The Alliance agreed that a letter be sent to Nick Harvey MP to support the views of the Citizens Advice Bureau and express its concern regarding the withdrawal of funding as it would be detrimental for people with more extreme problems and it would impact on the most vulnerable people in society.

**25 OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: "LOCAL STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIPS SHAPING THE FUTURE"**

The Alliance considered a paper by J. Lee (circulated previously) regarding the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister consultant document on "Local Strategic Partnership Shaping the Future".

I. Hobbs stated that it was important that the revised Community Strategy had a clear performance plan with appropriate baselines and targets for improvement. There was a need to ensure that there was an effective relationship between the Alliance and the Devon Strategic Partnership. It was suggested that the response could include reference to the potential for a commissioning relationship between County and District Local Strategic Partnerships either where the Devon Strategic Partnership could commission Local Strategic Partnerships to carry out work on its behalf or vice-versa. He further explained that the consultation stated that Local Authorities should be accountable for the performance of Local Strategic Partnerships but emphasised that this was seen as enabling not a "command" role.

The Alliance agreed that the responses to the key questions as detailed in the report, amended by the discussion, form the basis of the response to the consultation document.

26 COMMUNITY STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by M. Isaac (circulated previously) regarding an update on the Community Strategy.

It was noted that a special meeting of the Alliance would be held on Monday 27th March 2006 at 10.00 a.m. to consider the draft Community Strategy.

S. Pitcher stated that the Community Strategy would now be entitled "Sustainable Community Strategy".

27 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Alliance considered a paper by I. Hobbs and S. Pitcher (circulated previously) regarding the Local Area Agreement.

J. Smith briefly outlined to the Alliance the objectives of a Local Area Agreement and how it would be prepared.

The meeting adjourned to workshops and split in to five groups based on the blocks within the Local Area Agreement, "Safer", "Stronger", "Children and Young People", "Healthier Communities and Older People" and "Economic Development and Enterprise"

A brief report on the workshop would be provided to the next ordinary meeting of the Alliance.

The meeting reconvened at 11.35 a.m.

28 ENSURING A PATIENT LED NHS: CONSULTATION ON NEW PRIMARY CARE TRUST ARRANGEMENTS IN THE SOUTH WEST PENINSULA

The Alliance considered a paper by S. Pitcher (circulated previously) regarding Ensuring a Patient Led NHS Consultation on new Primary Care Trust arrangements in the South West Peninsula.

Councillor Greenslade declared that he was a Non-Executive Director of the Northern Devon Healthcare Trust. He stated that North Devon District Council and Devon County Council would be making responses to the consultation paper. Devon County Council's preferred option was for one Primary Care Trust co-terminous with the boundaries of Social Services.

Dr Roberts stated that the Northern Devon Healthcare Trust would be considering its response to the consultation paper at its Board meeting on 7th March 2006. The Trust would be considering the option that would achieve the most robust strategic commissioning.

The Alliance agreed that the following response be made to the consultation paper:

- (a) that the Government should provide evidence of the benefits that the proposed changes to the organisational boundaries of the Primary Care Trusts would provide;
- (b) that G.P. commissioning and neighbourhood based delivery needed time to develop and mature prior to any changes being made to the organisational boundaries of the Primary Care Trusts;
- (c) that it would be important to see integration of practice based commissioning with other neighbourhood developments.

Councillor Ms Davis declared a personal interest in the above item as her husband was a NHS dentist.

29 RATIONALISATION OF POLICE SERVICES: UPDATE

Acting Chief Inspector Davies stated that in September 2005 the Home Secretary asked Police Forces and Police Authorities about how they could work more effectively to tackle serious crime and terrorism. The Devon and Cornwall Constabulary submitted its proposals on 31st October 2005. On 9th November 2005 it received notification of four options for the re-organisation of Police Forces. It submitted its response to the Home Office on 23rd December 2005 stating that it wished for Devon and Cornwall Police Constabulary to become a stand alone Strategic Force. The decision on the outcome of this response would not be announced until March 2006. Charles Clark, Home Secretary would be meeting with the Chief Superintendent shortly to discuss the proposals for Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

Councillor Greenslade declared a personal interest as a Member of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority. He stated that the majority of Members of Parliament were supportive of keeping Devon and Cornwall Constabulary as a Strategic Police Force.

The Alliance agreed that a letter be sent to Charles Clark, Home Secretary to support the submission of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary to become a Strategic Police Force and that a copy of the letter be forwarded to the Chief Constable.

30 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS: UPDATE

The Alliance received a presentation by G. Smith, Neighbourhood Manager, Transform regarding the work of Transform and role and work that was being carried out by the Neighbourhood Wardens. He introduced Helen Frisby and Andrew Kellaway, Neighbourhood Wardens to the Alliance. A leaflet regarding the role of Neighbourhood Wardens was tabled.

G. Smith showed a video to the Alliance which had been made by young people regarding the role of Transform.

K. Baker stated that it would be useful for the Environment Agency to have links with the Neighbourhood Wardens to provide assistance during times of drought and flooding.

Acting Chief Inspector Davies stated that funding has been obtained for the provision of 14 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) in April 2006. The number of PCSO's would increase to approximately 50 over the next two years. He stated that it would be useful for more Neighbourhood Wardens to be appointed to provide support to the PCSO's.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that Acting Chief Inspector Davies report to a future meeting of the Alliance on the role of Police Community Support Officers;
- (b) that the Alliance Support Group, in consultation with Transform, develop a task group to evaluate the services being provided by Neighbourhood Wardens and consider how the service could be mainstreamed in the future and report back to a future meeting of the Alliance.

31 PERFORMING PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business, Plymouth Business School (circulated previously) regarding Performing Partnerships Project.

S. Pitcher stated that the next stage would be for a final report to be produced and for the Alliance to consider any actions within the report.

32 RURAL ALLIANCE PARISH PLANS

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by B. Holme (circulated previously) regarding Rural Alliance Parish Plans.

33 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Alliance noted the dates of future meetings of the Alliance during 2006/07:

- Monday 24th April 2006 at 10.00 a.m.
- Monday 17th July 2006 at 10.00 a.m.
- Monday 16th October 2006 at 10.00 a.m.
- Monday 22nd January 2007 at 10.00 a.m.
- Monday 16th April 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 12.40 p.m.