

NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Minutes of a meeting of the NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE held at the Cedars Inn, Bickington Road, Barnstaple on Monday 18th April 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Representing:

Devon County Council: Councillors Knight and Spear
Devon and Cornwall Learning Skills Council: Mr I. Clark
Devon Partnership NHS Trust: Mrs E. Davenport
Job Centre Plus: Mr K. McIntosh
Local Community Alliances: A. Bacon, Councillors A. Ridd-
Jones, Pearson, Spear and Mrs
Webber
North Devon Homes: Mr J. Keyes
North Devon Voluntary Action Forum: Mrs P. Jackson
Northern Devon Healthcare Trust: Mr M. Scrace
North Devon District Council: Councillor Mrs Shapland
(Chairman)
North Devon Primary Care Trust: Dr K. Gronqvist
Parish Councils: Councillor Fraser-Smith
Voluntary Sector: Mr B. Allen and Mrs D. Bracher
Westcountry Ambulance Service NHS Trust: Mr M. Baddick

Officers:

Devon County Council

I. Hobbs, County Community Strategy Officer

North Devon District Council

S. Pitcher - Executive Director, B. Holme - Community Development Manager, M. Kelly - Deputy Planning Manager, A. Austen - Senior Policy Planner and Miss B. Greenslade - Member Services Co-ordinator.

Also Present:

A. Bell	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty/Countryside Development Officer
G. Smith	Transform
R. McDonald	Transform
Ms. J. Payne	Local Strategic Partnership Support Worker

60 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2005 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

61 ORDER OF AGENDA

The Alliance agreed to consider item 13 under item 3 on the agenda.

62 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE/MATTERS ARISING

(a) Biosphere Reserve Progress Report

The Alliance considered a paper by A. Bell (circulated previously) regarding a progress report on the Biosphere Reserve.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (i) that the report be noted;
- (ii) that the development of the projects in the wider Biosphere Reserve be supported;
- (iii) that the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service work with the Christie Devon Estates, English Nature and the Ministry of Defence to help the public to understand the reasons for the site management policies being taken;
- (iv) that the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service work with Christie Devon Estates, English Nature and the Ministry of Defence to develop a visitor management plan for the dune system.

Councillor Mrs Shapland declared a personal interest in the above issue a District Council Ward Councillor.

(b) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

S. Pitcher reported that the Alliance had previously appointed M. Taylor as its representative to serve on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership. M. Taylor had now resigned from this position, therefore the Alliance would need to re-appoint a representative to serve on the Partnership.

The Alliance agreed that Councillor Pearson be appointed to serve on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership.

Councillor D. Spear declared a personal interest in the above issue as Chairman of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership.

(c) Lynmouth Marine Current Turbine: Update

The Alliance considered and noted an update by Councillor Fowler regarding the Lynmouth Marine Current Turbine (circulated previously).

S. Pitcher stated that the Alliance would be kept up to date on progress regarding the Lynmouth Marine Current Turbine project.

Councillor Spear stated that he and fellow Councillors and Officers within Devon County Council supported this project.

Councillor Pearson stated that the Alliance should continue to support this project to try to ensure that the North Devon area gained a shore base so that an economic benefit was gained from the project.

S. Pitcher stated that the project was included in the action plan for the Ilfracombe MCTI.

(d) Local Area Agreements

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that the Chairman of Devon County Council had now signed the Local Area Agreement document. A full copy of the agreement was available and I. Hobbs would be able to send any Member of the Alliance a copy should they require it.

I. Hobbs explained some of the complexity of securing such agreements in two tier authorities such as Devon and in the face of very tight timescales. Governance arrangements are currently being developed and it will be important for the Alliance to be actively engaged in this process. He suggested that there should be a standing item regarding this issue on the agenda for future meetings of the Alliance.

63 (a) NATIONAL ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

S. Pitcher stated that the Alliance had requested 18 months ago that the M.P. for North Devon put pressure on the Government to produce a National Alcohol Reduction Strategy. He reported that the Government had now produced the Strategy. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was in the process of producing a Community Safety Strategy for a three year period. The Alliance would consider this Strategy at its meeting in July 2005.

S. Pitcher further reported that he had been appointed as "Alcohol Champion" by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The Partnership would be holding workshops regarding alcohol within the next couple of months and relevant organisations would be invited to attend.

(b) LICENSING ACT UPDATE

The Alliance considered and noted a briefing paper (circulated previously) regarding an update on the Licensing Act. He stated that all village halls would require to have a licence under the new Act and encouraged all Members of the Alliance to advise anyone that they knew, that were involved in the management of Village Hall, that they should submit their applications as soon as possible.

Ms E. Davenport reported that the Devon Drug Alcohol Action Team Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Treatment Strategy was currently being prepared. She would keep the Alliance up to date on progress being made on this Strategy.

Councillor Spear stated that he was pleased that North Devon District Council was operating a telephone helpline. He stated that it was important that the helpline telephone number was publicised.

Councillor Mrs Webber suggested that when the Devon Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Treatment Strategy had been produced that a session should be arranged to go through the Strategy with Members of the Licensing Committee of North Devon District Council.

Councillor Fraser-Smith raised concern that not all Parish Councils were aware of the August deadline for the receipt of applications.

Councillor Mrs Shapland stated that letters had been sent to all Parish Clerks and a training session had been arranged for Parish Clerks but it was very poorly attended.

I. Hobbs stated that he would ensure that an item regarding the Licensing Act 2003 was included on all agenda for the next meetings of the Local Community Alliances.

64 PERFORMING PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

The Alliance considered a paper (circulated previously) regarding the Performing Partnerships Project.

S. Pitcher stated that the Project was a piece of work that the Plymouth University was carrying out with all Local Strategic Partnerships to ensure that they are performance managed. All of the Local Strategic Partnerships in Devon had been invited to participate in the project. He further stated that the issue had been considered at the last meeting of the Community Alliance Support Group and it had been agreed that the meeting of the Focus Group with Plymouth University should be arranged jointly with the Torrington Local Strategic Partnership. A meeting of the Focus Group would be meeting after 9th May 2005.

65 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Alliance received a presentation by M. Kelly and A. Austen regarding the Local Development Framework and Statement of Community Involvement.

They explained how the Alliance would be involved in the process. A presentation would be given to all North Devon District Councillors and Parish Clerks during May and June 2005. The issue would also be considered at the next meetings of the Local Community Alliances.

M. Kelly offered to give a presentation on this issue to any organisation who wished to receive it.

In response to a question from Councillor Knight, A. Austen stated that North Devon District Council would be working closely with the Exmoor National Park Authority regarding the Local Development Framework and Statement of Community Involvement.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Webber, A. Austen stated that the results of the recent consultation exercise which was undertaken in Barnstaple would be fed in to the action plan to be produced for Barnstaple. The Action Plan for Barnstaple would be produced during 2006.

66 TRANSFORM

(a) Update on Progress

The Alliance received a presentation by G. Smith regarding an update on progress made by Transform which included action which had been made on housing, health, to improve community safety, education and training and improving access to services.

(b) Mainstreaming of Neighbourhood Wardens

The Alliance received a presentation by G. Smith regarding a proposal for the provision of Neighbourhood Wardens. He outlined the role of the Wardens and the benefits of providing such Wardens. Neighbourhood Management would fund the posts in full for three years. During this period a review would be undertaken to gauge the effectiveness of these posts. If the posts proved to be successful, tapered funding would be available from Neighbourhood Management for the following three years to assist with mainstreaming.

The Alliance was asked if it would agree in principle to mainstreaming these posts if they proved to be successful and enter into a Service Level Agreement (S.L.A.) with the Pathfinder to this effect. This could include combining to secure on going funding, integrating with or adapting other service developments or lobbying for resources externally.

G. Smith stated that the provision of the Neighbourhood Warden posts would give the Alliance the opportunity to achieve its objectives in the neighbourhood, to learn from the experience with the benefit of a sound financial safety net and to influence Government policy on these posts and therefore be well placed to secure more of them as Government rolled out the concept.

Councillor Knight stated that the provision of Neighbourhood Wardens would give organisations the ability to change the provision of services across North Devon. He stated that Members of the Alliance should ask

their relevant organisations whether they would be prepared to support the funding of these posts in the future.

Dr K. Gronqvist stated that she had lived in an area where Neighbourhood Wardens were in place. She stated that they should not be seen to be part of the Police and should be a local person with sufficient knowledge to be able to signpost members of the public to the appropriate organisations when necessary.

The following discussion identified that the Local Strategic Partnership would have to reflect on the steps that would be needed in order for it to respond to this request as it was not an Executive body, nor does it have legal status to commission services as a collective body.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that the proposal to provide Neighbourhood Wardens be endorsed in principle;
- (b) that the Community Alliance Support Group be requested to investigate the future management of the proposed Neighbourhood Wardens and to develop proposals to enable a Service Level Agreement to be agreed;
- (c) that Transform be requested to provide regular updates to the Alliance on progress made on the Neighbourhood Wardens scheme.

67 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT PACKAGE - WORK OF PROJECT WORKERS

I. Hobbs reported that since the last meeting of the Alliance, two Project Workers had been appointed. He outlined the proposed work schedules for the Workers (circulated previously). One Worker had left within a couple of days due to being offered a much higher paid and permanent post. He stated that Jenni Payne had been appointed to assist the rural parishes which were not currently involved in the alliance process. He introduced Jenni Payne to Members of the Alliance.

68 WESTCOUNTRY AMBULANCE SERVICES TRUST: MODERNISATION PLANS

M. Baddick addressed the Alliance on the Westcountry Ambulance Services Trust's modernisation plans. He raised concern regarding the issues that had been raised at the previous meeting of the Alliance by Dr Roberts and by Chief Inspector Nutt.

He outlined the reasons for the proposed changes to the services that were as a result of changes in terms and conditions of employees which included the reduction of the number of working hours to 37.5 hours per

week, increasing the number of days of annual leave, the provision of meal breaks and the receipt of time off in lieu for working public holidays.

He further stated that since the last meeting of the Alliance a meeting had been held between the Trust, Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council and the Primary Care Trust regarding the provision of an ambulance service at Lynton and Lynmouth. It had been agreed that a Rapid Response Service would continue to be provided at Lynton and Lynmouth for the next 12 months, this provision would then be reviewed. A meeting would be held with the Primary Care Trust shortly regarding the provision of ambulance services this year. He was concerned that the resources at Lynton and Lynmouth were being significantly under utilised.

There was a need to carry out a review of the provision of ambulance services for the whole of North Devon area to consider how the resources could be best used.

He stated that the proposed changes would result in the loss of 1½ hours operational cover each day.

He further reported that the Devon County Council Health Overview/Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 14th April 2005 had resolved that the Trust's service modernisation proposals were regarded as a substantial variation in services and therefore wished to take part in the joint scrutiny of proposals along with Plymouth, Torbay and Somerset.

He concluded that the Westcountry Ambulance Services Trust was unable sustain its current work programme and implement the new changes within the existing budgets. The Trust was obliged to work within its financial limits.

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that she had attended the meeting of the Devon County Council Health Overview/Scrutiny Committee on 14th April 2005 and explained the Committee's reasons for its decision. She declared a personal interest as she had been appointed by North Devon District Council to serve on the Devon County Council Health Overview/Scrutiny Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Pearson, M. Baddick reported that the resources were adjusted accordingly during the summer and winter months. Therefore more resources were provided during the summer months in places such as Woolacombe as there were more medical instances during these months.

Councillor Pearson raised concern regarding ambulances based at the Ilfracombe Ambulance Station, which was located adjacent to a Nursery and Family Centre, having their engines running whilst not in use. M. Baddick stated that he would look in to this issue.

Dr Gronqvist raised concern regarding the Trust's response times. She reported the receipt of new guidance for heart patients. She stated that North Devon had the highest rate of heart disease mortality and she was

concerned regarding the inequality of ambulances reaching the patients and the treatment that the patients received.

M. Baddick stated that the Westcountry Ambulance Service Trust was commissioned by the Primary Care Trust. The Ambulance Service Trust was required to work within financial resources as set by the Primary Care Trust and to meet performance targets set which were not within their control. The Ambulance Service Trust had no other means to generate additional funding.

Councillor Mrs Shapland stated that an update regarding progress made on the Westcountry Ambulance Service Trust modernisation plans would be reported to the Alliance at the appropriate time.

69 DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL: A WARM RESPONSE OUR CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that the Devon County Council had published a consultation document entitled "A Warm Response Our Climate Change Challenge Consultation Document". She stated that the Community Alliance Support Group would be formulating a response to the consultation document on behalf of the Alliance. This response would then be circulated to all Members of the Alliance for their information.

70 LOCAL ALLIANCES: UPDATE

B. Holme stated that a workshop between all members of the Alliance and Local Alliances/MCTi groups would be arranged during July 2005.

The Alliance received updates from Councillor Pearson regarding the Ilfracombe MCTi, A. Bacon regarding the Combe Martin Alliance and Councillor Ridd-Jones regarding the Rural Alliance.

B. Holme gave updates regarding the Barnstaple Alliance, South Molton MCTi, Lynton and Lynmouth Alliance, Codden Alliance and Braunton Alliance. He stated that some of the Alliances were producing key plans which would be presented to the next meeting of the Alliance.

71 NORTH DEVON HOSPICE

The Alliance noted that the North Devon Hospice would be open to the general public on the weekend of Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May 2005 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. to view the new bedded unit.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 12.58 p.m.