

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 October 2004 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Representing

Archdeaconry of Barnstaple: Reverend M. Jones
Barnstaple Town Council: Councillor Hawes
Community Council of Devon: Mr J. Talbot
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary: Chief Inspector Nutt
Devon County Council: Councillors Cann, Knight and Spear
Devon Partnership NHS Trust: Mr S. Polak
Environment Agency: Mr K. Baker
Job Centre Plus: Mr K. McIntosh
Local Community Alliances: Mr M. Taylor, Councillors Ridd-Jones,
Pearson, Mrs Sim and Mrs Webber
Member of Parliament: Mr N. Harvey
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 and Mrs Shapland
(Chairman)
North Devon Primary Care Trust: Mrs T. Polak
Parish Councils: Councillor Fraser-Smith
Torridge Local Strategic Partnership: Reverend Dobbin
Voluntary Sector: Mr B. Allen, Ms. W. Butler and Mrs D. Bracher
Westcountry Ambulance Service NHS Trust: Mr N. Vine

Officers:

Devon County Council

County Community Strategy Officer and Assistant County Community Strategy Officer.

North Devon District Council

S. Pitcher - Executive Director, B. Holme - Community Development Manager, M. Isaac - Community Development Co-ordinator and Miss B. Greenslade - Member Services Co-ordinator.

Also Present:

Ms L. Blanchard - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Manager
Mr G. Smith - Neighbourhood Manager
Ms. P. Clark - Legal Services Commission
Mr P. Howgrave-Graham - North Devon Primary Care Trust
Ms S. Taylor - Secretary of North and East Devon Pharmaceutical Committee

35 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Reverend Penny Dobbin, the newly appointed Chairman of Torrington Together, the Local Strategic Partnership, to her first meeting of the Alliance.

36 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2004 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

(a) National Energy Action

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that in pursuance to minute 20 (d) of the meeting held on 26th July 2004, a bid had been submitted to the National Energy Charity for funding to reduce fuel poverty, however, the bid had been unsuccessful.

(b) Appointment of Director of Public Health

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that the interviews for the position of Director of Public Health had now taken place. The successful candidate would be commencing work in three months time.

The Alliance thanked Liz Plastow, the former Acting Director of Public Health, for her hard work and contribution towards the work of the Alliance.

(c) North Devon First - Achievement Report

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported that the draft North Devon First Achievement Report would be circulated prior to Christmas for comment.

(d) Biosphere Update

Ms L. Blanchard informed the Alliance of the three main areas of work being carried out on the Biosphere.

(e) Outcomes of Joint Local Strategic Partnership Chairmen Meeting

S. Pitcher reported on the outcomes of the Joint Local Strategic Partnership Chairmen meeting held on 27th September 2004. It had been agreed that the Chairmen would keep in contact via email to share issues of mutual interest.

(f) Outcomes of Joint Local Strategic Partnership Meeting with Torridge on 5th October 2004

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported on the outcomes of the Joint Local Strategic Partnership meeting with Torridge that was held on 5th October 2004 regarding the Economic Strategy.

(g) Local Area Agreement

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported the receipt of a letter from the Government Office for the South West that announced that Devon and Cornwall had been selected as Local Area Agreement pilot areas. The Agreement would be outcome based and reflect national and local priorities as identified in the Community Strategy. Ministers would announce its decision on the national roll-out of the scheme in April 2005. She also reported the receipt of a letter from Mr P. Jenkinson, Chief Executive of Devon County Council regarding the Local Area Agreement.

The Alliance agreed that a letter be sent to Mr P. Jenkinson, on behalf of the Alliance, stating that the Alliance welcomed the opportunity to work closely with Devon County Council and other partners on the preparation of the Local Area Agreement.

(h) Prince's Trust

Councillor Mrs Shapland reported the receipt of a letter from the Prince's Trust, which advised that the next Team Project commenced during November 2004. The project would be community based and would take place over a three week period. She requested that if any Member of the Alliance would be interested in working with the Prince's Trust on a project to advise her so she could follow it up.

38 LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION: PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

The Alliance received a presentation by Pauline Clark regarding the Devon Community Legal Service Partnership. She advised the Alliance of the work of the Partnership and how it linked in with the Alliance's objective to alleviate social exclusion. She stated that the Partnership had produced a media pack on Debt and copies were available for Members if required.

In response to a question, Pauline Clark advised the Alliance that the Partnership did not have any direct contact with banks regarding debt management.

In response to a further question, Pauline Clark advised the Alliance that members of the public could receive advice direct over the telephone.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (a) that a local media campaign be arranged by the local authorities Press Officers using the Media Pack produced by the Devon Community Legal Service Partnership regarding the prevention of debt prior to Christmas;

- (b) that the Transform project pilot a piece of work in the programme area regarding the prevention of debt.

39 SOCIAL INCLUSION - ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Alliance considered a paper by Ian Hobbs (circulated previously) regarding Social Inclusion Action and Implementation.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (i) that the progress of the Devon Strategic Partnership Task Group report on social inclusion be welcomed and that actions proposed in relation to North Devon be agreed;
- (ii) that the working group to review and implement the Fairer North Devon strategy of the Alliance now be convened and report in detail to a future meeting of the Alliance.

Reverend Michael Jones informed the Alliance that he would be interested in being a member of the working group.

- (a) Neighbourhood Management: Delivery Plan

The Alliance received a presentation by Gary Smith regarding the Neighbourhood Management Delivery Plan.

A copy of the draft Delivery Plan was circulated previously to Members of the Alliance.

The Alliance agreed that the Neighbourhood Management Programme Delivery Plan be welcomed and endorsed and that all partners commit to its implementation.

- (b) Strategic Developments in Community and Voluntary Sector

- (i) Devon Forum

J. Talbot advised the Alliance that a Devon Forum had been established in June 2004 and was a collective network for Devon's voluntary and community sector. He also advised the Alliance of the Forum's proposed work programme and membership.

A paper regarding the Devon Forum was tabled.

- (ii) Devon Compact

The Alliance considered a paper by Alison Boyd (circulated previously) regarding the Devon Compact.

The Alliance agreed the following:

- (A) that the progress of the "Compact" document be welcomed and the importance to facilitating continuing

improvements in the relations between the community and voluntary sector and their Local Strategic Partnership partners be recognised;

- (B) that Members of the Alliance commit themselves to formally considering the implication of the "Compact" for their organisation or sector, to respond to the "Compact Hub";
 - (C) that the Alliance representatives on the "Hub" report to a future meeting on the outcomes of the consultation exercise;
 - (D) that Members of the Alliance ensure that their organisations stand ready to consider how to implement "Compact" methods of working;
 - (E) that J. Talbot, Alison Boyd, Wendy Butler and Penny Jackson report to a future meeting of the Alliance on how they could work together in the future.
- (iii) Devon Association of CVS's

Penny Jackson and Wendy Butler updated the Alliance on the work of the Devon Association of CVS's.

40 ILFRACOMBE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Alliance received a joint presentation by B. Holme and Councillor F. Pearson regarding the Ilfracombe and District Community Action Plan.

B. Holme reported that the draft Ilfracombe and District Community Action Plan had been circulated for consultation. He welcomed any comments on the Action Plan.

Councillor Pearson outlined the projects contained within the draft Action Plan which would be implemented over a 20 year period.

The Alliance agreed the following;

- (a) that the Lynmouth Marine Current Turbine project be supported and that a further report on the project be brought to a future meeting of the Alliance;
- (b) that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Alliance regarding the availability of European Funding and the potential for Regional matched funding;
- (c) that the North Devon District Council's work to be carried out on the review of the Renewable Energy Action Plan be brought to a future meeting of the Alliance;

- (d) that the draft Ilfracombe and District Community Action Plan be endorsed.

41 LOCAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCES WORKSHOP: 20TH SEPTEMBER 2004

The Alliance considered and noted a report by B. Holme (circulated previously) regarding the Local Community Alliances workshop held on 20th September 2004.

42 PROLIFIC AND PERSISTENT OFFENDERS SCHEME

Chief Inspector Nutt advised the Alliance of a new scheme that had been launched in Torridge and North Devon aimed at targeting prolific re-offenders. She informed the Alliance of the aims of the scheme.

A copy of the press release for the launch of the Prolific and Persistent Offenders Scheme was circulated previously.

43 DE-REGULATION OF PHARMACIES

The Alliance received an update by Sue Taylor, Secretary of the North and East Devon Pharmaceutical Committee regarding the de-regulation of pharmacies. She stated that the Government had confirmed that it would not completely pursue the Office of Fair Trading's proposals to remove control of entry regulations. The four exemptions that were originally proposed had been confirmed subject to some modifications. The main concern was that access to pharmacies in rural areas and by vulnerable people was not compromised.

She outlined the modifications proposed to the exemptions to the Alliance. The modifications were likely to be implemented on 1st April 2005 and the Regulations were still in the process of being drafted.

Councillor Mrs Shapland requested that Sue Taylor keep the Alliance informed of the latest position regarding the de-regulation of pharmacies.

44 PRIMARY CARE TRUST LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Alliance received a presentation by P. Howgrave-Graham regarding the Primary Care Trust's Local Development Plan. He informed the Alliance of the Primary Care Trust's priorities, the service re-design within North Devon and the projects contained within the Plan.

45 NORTH DEVON AONB PARTNERSHIP

The Alliance agreed that M. Taylor be appointed to serve on the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership.

46 **SOUTH WEST CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT PARTNERSHIP
EVENT**

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by A. Bell (circulated previously) regarding the South West Climate Change Impact Partnership Event.

47 **DEVON PORTAL**

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by G. Douglass (circulated previously) regarding the Devon Portal.

48 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS**

The Alliance considered and noted a paper by Ms A. Palmer and a press release (circulated previously) regarding Domestic Violence Awareness.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 1.27 p.m.