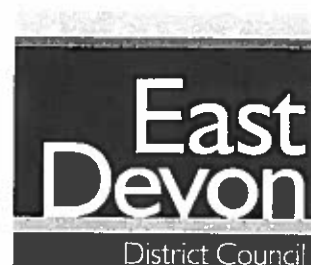


Date: 11 September 2009
Contact name: Debbie Meakin
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To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee
(Councillors: David Atkins; Ray Bloxham; Peter Bowden; Iain Chubb;
Trevor Cope; Christine Drew; Chris Gibbings; Roger Giles;
Graham Godbeer; Stuart Hall; Stephanie Jones; David Key;
Jim Knight; Frances Newth; Barry Nicholson; Marion Olive; Helen Parr
Bob Peachey; Graham Troman; Eileen Wragg; Steve Wragg)

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Portfolio Holders
Other Members of the Council for Information
Chief Executive
Corporate Directors

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Wednesday, 23 September 2009 – 6.30pm

Council Chamber, Knowle, Sidmouth

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.

- A period of 15 minutes has been provided to allow members of the public to raise questions.
- In addition, after a report has been introduced by the relevant Portfolio Holder and/or officer, the Chairman of the Committee will ask if any member of the public would like to speak in respect of the matter and/or ask questions.
- All individual contributions will be limited to a period of 3 minutes – where there is an interest group of objectors or supporters, a spokesperson should be appointed to speak on behalf of group.
- The public is advised that the Chairman has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time.

AGENDA

Page/s

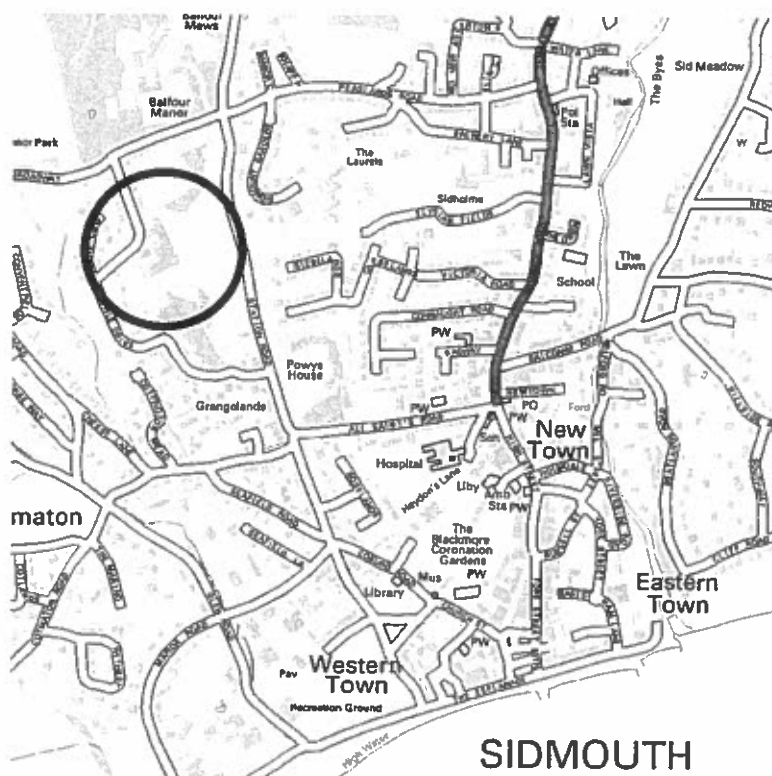
1. **Public question time – standard agenda item (15 minutes)**
Members of the public are invited to put questions to the Committee through the Chairman.
 - Each individual questioner exercising the right to speak during this public question time is restricted to speaking for a total of 3 minutes.
 - Councillors also have the opportunity to ask questions of the Leader and/or Portfolio Holders during this time slot whilst giving priority at this part of the agenda to members of the public.
 - The Chairman has the right and discretion to control question time to avoid disruption, repetition, and to make best use of the meeting time.
2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 1 July 2009. 4 - 7
3. To receive any apologies for absence

4. To consider any items which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances.
- (Note: such circumstances need to be clearly identified in the minutes; Councillors please notify the Chief Executive in advance of the meeting if you wish to raise a matter under this item. The Chief Executive will then consult with the Chairman).
5. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are **no** items that the officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.
6. Decisions made by the Executive Board called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview Procedure Rules under Part 4.5 of the Constitution. There are **no** items which have been identified.
7. **Comprehensive Area Assessment** 8 - 9
(Councillor Andrew Moulding, Portfolio Holder for Resources; and Councillor Ken Potter, Chairman of Audit & Governance Committee, are invited to attend)
- A brief summary of the newly introduced CAA is attached for information. Members are asked to consider the impact of the new assessment on current partnership arrangements and on the Council's ability to provide evidence for the Inspectors. Members may also wish to bring with them the summary document entitled "Comprehensive Area Assessment – a guide to the new framework" previously circulated.
8. **Health and Health Equality Policy** 10 - 25
(Councillor Jill Elson, Portfolio Holder for Communities, is invited to attend)
- Members are asked to consider how they see the role of EDDC in delivering health services in the District, with particular reference to pages 14 and 15, under Specific Policy Areas, points 1 to 11.
9. **Town and Parish website and e-mail addresses**
- Councillors Philip Skinner, Chris Gibbings and Graham Troman will give a verbal report on the need for uniform website addresses.
10. **Minutes from the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 September 2009.** 26 - 31
11. **Minutes from the Service Delivery and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting** is due to be held 24 September 2009.
12. **Minutes from the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee 16 September 2009.** To follow
13. **Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Forward Plan** 32

Members remember!

- You must declare any personal or prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.
- Make sure you say the reason for your interest as this has to be included in the minutes.
- If your interest is prejudicial you must leave the room unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Council's Standards Committee or where Para 12(2) of the Code can be applied. Para 12(2) allows a Member with a prejudicial interest to stay for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business but only at meetings where the public are also allowed to make representations. If you do remain, you must not exercise decision-making functions or seek to improperly influence the decision; you must leave the meeting room once you have made your representation.
- You also need to declare when you are subject to the party whip before the matter is discussed.

Getting to the Meeting – for the benefit of visitors



The entrance to the Council Offices is located on Station Road, Sidmouth. **Parking** is limited during normal working hours but normally easily available for evening meetings.

The following bus service stops outside the Council Offices on Station Road:
From Exmouth, Budleigh, Otterton and Newton Poppleford – 157

The following buses all terminate at the Triangle in Sidmouth. From the Triangle, walk up Station Road until you reach the Council Offices (approximately ½ mile).
From Exeter – 52A, 52B
From Honiton – 340 (Railway Station), 387 (Town Centre)
From Seaton – 52A, 899
From Ottery St Mary – 382, 387

Please check your local timetable for times.

The Committee Suite has a separate entrance to the main building, located at the end of the visitor and Councillor car park. The rooms are at ground level and easily accessible; there is also a toilet for disabled users.

Visitors please note that the doors to the civic suite (meeting rooms) will be opened ¼ hour before the start time of the meeting. Councillors are reminded to bring their key fobs if they wish to access the area prior to that time.

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 1 July 2009

Present:

Councillors:

Ray Bloxham (Chairman)
Bob Peachey (Vice-Chairman)

David Atkins
Iain Chubb
Trevor Cope
Christine Drew
Chris Gibbings
Roger Giles
Graham Godbeer
Steve Hall

David Key
Frances Newth
Marion Olive
Helen Parr
Graham Troman
Eileen Wragg
Steve Wragg

Officers:

Peter Jeffs – Corporate Director
Karime Hassan – Corporate Director
Diccon Pearse – Corporate Director
Debbie Meakin – Democratic Services Officer

Also Present

Councillors:

Vivienne Ash
Graham Brown
Geoff Chamberlain
Paul Diviani
J Elson
Stuart Hughes

Andrew Moulding
Sara Randall Johnson
Margaret Rogers
Phillip Skinner
Pauline Stott
Tim Wood

Apologies:

Jim Knight
Stephanie Jones
Peter Halse
Bob Buxton

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 8.20pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

***1 Public question time**

There were no questions from the public raised at this point of the meeting.

***2 Remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee**

The Chairman reminded Members present of the remit of the new Committee, covering the role of co-ordinating the work of the other three Overview and Scrutiny Committees as well as undertaking its own work including:

***2 Remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (continued)**

- Developing partnership working, helping to achieve integrated Devon service delivery;
- Achieving savings through remote working with neighbouring authorities;
- Working with parish councils, Police, Fire and the Primary Care Trust;
- Comprehensive Area Assessment issues;
- Local Strategic Partnership commissioning;
- Crime and Disorder.

Members accepted that there would be some overlapping of work within the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and that this would be closely monitored by the regular communication between the four Chairman and Vice Chairman of those committees. Additional meetings could be called if necessary, and the Portfolio Holders and Member Champions would be extensively involved. The role was clarified as a combination of the previous civic year's Scrutiny and Corporate Overview Committees.

***3 Resolutions from the former Scrutiny Committee on improvement to the Scrutiny function**

The Chairman outlined his brief discussions with officers on the resolutions listed. The role of Scrutiny Officer had been raised at other meetings and recommendations made; however the Executive Board had made its decision previously not to appoint a dedicated officer.

Poltimore House would also be monitored as had been previously undertaken by the former Scrutiny Committee.

***4 Minutes from the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Iain Chubb shared with Members the general direction this Committee would be taking, outlining focus on business growth and development, business infrastructure and support services, recession impact on market towns (including reviewing the Town Manager role) and information technology development.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

***5 Minutes from the Service Delivery and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Steve Hall reported to Members the work undertaken at his first meeting of this Committee, including reports presented on the improvements to the Planning and Benefits services following the implementation of systems thinking. He congratulated the teams on their progress. There had also been discussion around communication of the positive work of the Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Service Delivery and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

***6 Minutes from the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Helen Parr advised Members that her Committee had prioritised affordable housing on which a number of recommendations had been made. The Committee had also supported a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act on retaining Housing Revenue Account subsidy for affordable housing; a proposal also supported by the Housing Review Board.

*6 **Minutes from the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (continued)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

7 **Land Supply for Housing**

Councillor Phillip Skinner updated Members on the work of the Land Supply for Housing Task and Finish Forum, originally set up by the former Scrutiny Committee to validate the Council's five year supply figure and to ensure that this was robust. This was undertaken in light of the decision of the Secretary of State approving permission on appeal for 300 dwellings at Exminster. This appeal followed Teignbridge District Council's refusal of an outline planning application. The view was taken that TDC had inadequate land supply, and as a result this outweighed planning policy considerations.

Extensive work had been carried out by the Forum in both discussion with officers on the figures provided, and on the deliverability of the sites listed; the Forum had also undertaken site visits as another means of validation. Four recommendations were presented to the Committee for consideration.

Members sought clarification on how the work of the Forum fitted with the Local Development Framework Panel, and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

The remit of the Forum covered the five year supply figure calculated on 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008 site listing; it did not cover identifying new land. The LDF Panel had the role of looking at the 15 year requirements and review forthcoming sites; the SHLAA fed into the LDF work looking at all possible sites for the long term. The Forum had formed the view that the five year supply figure was valid but there was still a risk; and that even to meet that five year requirement, the Council was still falling far short of meeting the corporate priority of affordable housing in the District.

The Portfolio Holder for Communities voiced her concern on the lack of homes built for the rental market; and the need not only to build homes for young people of the District, but to support them with the necessary matching in social and health services.

The Chairman of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlined to Members the virtual Affordable Housing Delivery Team now operating, consisting of officers from Housing and Planning services, and their plans to present a policy for the consideration of her Committee.

Members also debated the pros and cons to any departure from planning policy as recommended by the Forum. Members were in general agreement that the Council could not afford to wait until the local plan was replaced in 2-3 years, and action was needed promptly.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee endorse the view of the Forum that there was barely a five year supply of housing land for the District, and therefore the Council could be vulnerable on appeal (depending on the interpretation of the Planning Inspector) and therefore work must begin on bringing forward more potential sites.

7 **Land Supply for Housing (continued)**

RECOMMENDED

1. that the Development Management Committee consider the five year land supply on a District basis, acknowledge that the figure is close to the threshold, and take urgent action as set out in recommendations 2 and 3 below;
2. that the Development Management Committee take urgent action to have sites reviewed for potential urban extension of Pinhoe following the report of the LDF Panel in September;
3. that urgent action be taken by the Development Management Committee to help secure appropriate affordable housing, especially for rural communities, and that the Development Management Committee be responsive to innovative ways of making the building of affordable homes viable, and liaises with the work of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

*8 **Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Forward Plan**

The Chairman suggested that the focus for the next few meetings should be around the Comprehensive Area Assessment, looking at the impact it will have on the Council and on partnership working. Members agreed with this in principle.

RESOLVED

that a report on Comprehensive Area Assessment be referred to the next meeting for discussion and for the information to include the likely impact this assessment would have on the Council and on partnership working.

Chairman Date

Highlight document on:

Audit Commission CAA Framework document effective from 1 April 2009

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) is the new basis of independent assessment of local public services in England. It adds to the existing method of assessment of best value performance indicators to give new indicators that reflect on the performance of an area, rather than on individual public authorities. All services will have to demonstrate how working together across authorities produces improvement and progress towards long term goals.

The Audit Commission will produce area assessments with a view to the short, medium and long term prospects for better results for local people. This will be linked to assessments of performance and value for money provided by the individual public bodies serving the area.

CAA will cover:

- Progress towards Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Achievement in local area agreements (LAA)
- National Indicator Set which covers both indicators for the public authority and for services delivered in partnership
- Focus on outcomes and how well public bodies work together to deliver, including with the private and third sector, town and parish councils, and local communities
- Flexible approach to assessment to reflect how public authorities understand and adapt to deal with the recession, and preparing for economic upturn

CAA will have two main elements, and Area Assessment and an Organisational Assessment.

Area Assessment

- Focus on agreed priorities
- Evidence gathering will begin from the LAA, Sustainable Community Strategy, and the Place Survey results. Evidence on the capability of partners and of any innovative working will also be sought
- Three key questions
 - How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
 - How well are outcomes and improvements needed, being delivered?
 - What are the prospects for future improvement?
- Assessment will be reported as narrative, not as numerical score or rating, but may be awarded a green or red flag
 - Green flag indicates exceptional performance or outstanding improvement and/or innovation
 - Red flag indicates significant concern about outcomes or prospects of outcomes, that something different or additional needs to happen
 - Good or very good practice is not sufficient for a green flag.

Organisational Assessment

- Council service performance broken down into key lines of enquiry
- Use of resources assessment
 - Managing finances – value for money
 - Governing the business – commission services that provide value for money and better outcomes
 - Managing resources – managing people, resources and assets to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money
- Managing performance – organising and managing to bring about improvement to services and contribute to wider community issues

- Assessment is scored on a scale of 1 to 4, 1 being "performs poorly"; 2 being "performs adequately"; 3 being "performs well"; 4 being "performs excellently"

For areas where County and District Councils are in place, the Audit Commission has recognised in their framework that they will take account of the additional complexities that this brings about in also having to work with other public bodies such as the Police, Health and Probation as examples. They will pay particular attention on the relationship between County and District, quoting that "the organisational assessments of district and county councils will be on the same footing for the first time, proportionate in scale and range to their relative functions".

Any scrutiny carried out on a particular theme or service by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will also count as evidence towards CAA. Other evidence is likely to include the Council's key strategies and policies, the Community Safety Partnership Plan, and reports to, and minutes of, the Local Strategic Partnership and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Consideration will also be given to any reports by the Local Government Ombudsman and the Standards Board.

Both the summary and the full Comprehensive Area Assessment Framework documents can be accessed at:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/CAA/Pages/caaframeworkdocuments.aspx>

Illustrations of how the CAA reports will look are given on the Audit Commission demonstration web site, found at <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/subwebs/caa/caademo/index.html>

Agenda Item 8

Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

23 September 2009

PJ/smep



Health, and Health Equality Policy

Summary

The Council is asked to approve the Health, and Health Equality Policy.

Recommendation

1. That the Health, and Health Equality Policy be approved;
2. That Members consider the 11 strategy points under the heading "Specific Policy Areas" of the proposed policy, and determine whether these are appropriate and sufficient, and how the council should make these happen in practice

a) Reasons for Recommendation

There is strong pressure from Government (reflected in IDeA and CAA working) for Councils to take their public health leadership role seriously.

This policy sets out where the District Council will be involved in health issues as part of its core business, and how it supports the corporate priorities. The Local Area Agreement for Devon includes health and health equality work.

b) Alternative Options

To reject or amend the policy.

c) Risk Considerations

There are no significant risks.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

This policy has potential beneficial impact on all areas of Council operation, but especially for "Equality" and "Safe Clean and Green Environment".

There are no significant budgetary implications.

e) Date for Review of Decision

September 2012.

1 Main Body of the Report

It is helpful for this Council to produce a Health, and Health Equality Policy. The Policy is attached as Appendix A, together with Appendices 1, 2 and 3

Legal Implications

There are no legal observations.

Financial Implications

There are no significant financial implications.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

-

Background Papers

-

Peter Jeffs ext. 2652
Corporate Director

Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee
23 September 2009



East Devon District Council Health, and Health Equality Policy

Reviewed

New policy created January 2009

Policy Approval

-

Reasons for introducing the Policy

PCT changes aligned their organisations to County Council and Unitary areas so the previous East Devon relationships have changed. There is strong pressure from Government (reflected in IDeA and CAA working) for Councils to take their public health leadership role seriously. This policy sets out where the District Council will be involved in health issues as part of its core business, and how it supports the corporate priorities. The Local Area Agreement for Devon includes health and health equality work.

Policy Statement

The policy explains how the Council is already a significant local player in health of its local communities and establishes how it will continue in this role in a way which will not overlap or conflict with the roles of other organisations but will still seek to achieve the best for East Devon and ensure that health equalities are maintained.

Terms Explained

Usually when we use the word 'health' we usually immediately think about the opposite.... illness... but of course 'health' covers more than that.

The World Health Organisation regards health as a 'complete state of physical, mental and social wellbeing' not just an absence of illness. So we need to think wider than the medical issues of just tackling illness, disability and injury. In order for people to be, and to stay, physically, mentally and socially healthy we also need to consider the environment in which they spend their lives, and the social support and influences around them.

If we recognise that health is not just about doctors we see that much of the work of a District Council is in fact about protecting peoples' good health.

How will we go about it?

The role of a district Council very much complements the health efforts of the clinical professions. However:

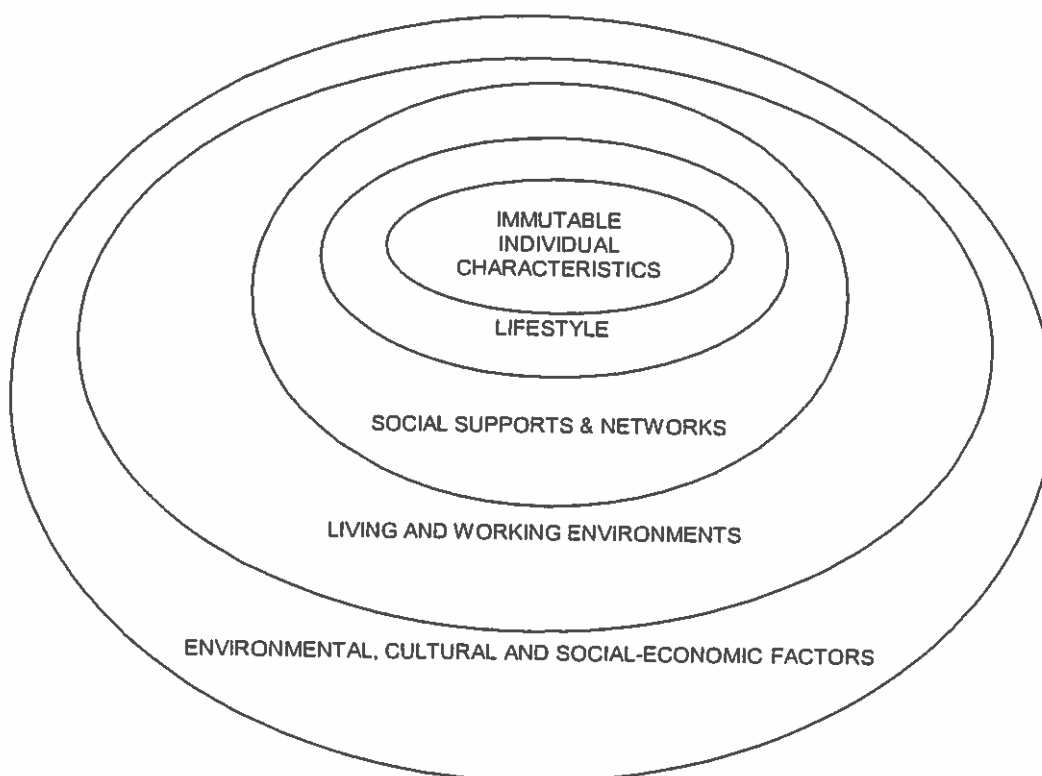
1. Whereas the NHS (National Health Service) mostly think of patients and illness, we mostly think about ways of keeping people well
2. Whereas the NHS look principally at the health of individuals we tend to look at the health of communities
3. Whereas the NHS think about the health issues of existing patients we are starting to plan for the health, and health facilities, of future generations
4. Local Authorities provide an opportunity for democratic input to health issues
5. We have a regulatory dimension for health, enforcing various health related laws
6. We may be less science, and evidence focussed, and more responsive to people's feelings about things than the NHS

7. We have a much wider brief than the NHS

If we consider the essentials for a healthy lifefood, water, shelter (housing) and air.... a District Council has an input to good quality of all of these. Furthermore a District Council does have a direct role in control of disease and injury (food poisoning, pest and dog control, work related illness, refuse collection and other services), and control of stressors (for instance noise, crime, low income, and nuisance), as well as providing for an active lifestyle.

A famous diagram (Dahlgren and Whitehead) is at Fig. 1. It shows the whole range of elements that go into making a person or a community healthy, and the majority are aspects a District Council has an input into.

Figure 1 – Health Factors



From the diagram we can see the relevance of social and mental factors in health and wellbeing and also the potential links to many areas of Council activity. One of the key aspects of health activity is "Health Equality". This is ensuring that not only does the overall health of a population or community increase but that this increase is spread equally through the community. There can be a risk that certain groups (typically more affluent groups) improve but others do not – thus widening the health 'gap'. For this reason there is an important link between health and equal opportunities work.

Within the Council this also means that the impact of our health work also needs to at least fall equally on all parts of our community, preferably that those with least good health receive more benefit (positive action). This links Health Equalities to our other Equal Opportunities work.

We have an 'Environmental Health and Health Equalities' Service which should bring particular focus to this aspect.

What do we already do?

As suggested above many of the everyday activities and initiatives of a District Council are directly linked with health and this should be no surprise as, at its beginnings, local government was fundamentally a health organisation, long before the NHS was born. Sanitation, waste collection, control of nuisances, control of housing conditions, and even management of hospitals and doctors were at the heart of local authorities a century ago.

At Appendix 1 is a list of the current main inputs by the many different parts of EDDC to the health, and healthy lifestyles of people in our District (including many of our staff).

Much of the regulation that exists to control illness, disease, and injury has been vested in local authorities. Local Authorities have also been given a legal 'power of wellbeing' which is the authority to do things and spend money for the wellbeing of their local people.

How does 'health link to the corporate priorities?

1. Affordable Homes – shelter is a health requirement
2. Thriving economy – working environmental freedom from money worries improve health
3. Safe, clean and green environment – these support basic public health and freedom from stress
4. Recycling – this is part of healthy and sustainable waste management which is about basic public health
5. Children and Young People – the health and wellbeing of this sector can sometimes be overlooked
6. Excellent service for customers – our services are predominantly health related (see Appendix 1) and health equalities should be a guiding principle
7. An inspirational Council – a broader perspective on communities and their health is an integral part of this priority

In the Appendix is a service by service breakdown of the activities of the Council in meeting the corporate priorities.

What is health like in East Devon?

We are fortunate in East Devon to be living in one of the most healthy districts in the country, considering the age profile of our population. However we should not be complacent. The 'average' figures behind this general statement hide a complex mass of variability. At Appendix 2 is a brief comparison of the local health situation.

Specific Policy Areas**What more, if anything, should we be tackling to improve local people's health?**

As well as the Council's corporate priorities the East Devon Sustainable Community Plan, the developing LDF (Local Development Framework), and the Devon Local Area Agreement all contain targets and actions to help promote local health. These are in Appendix 3

As an employer we have many hundreds of staff, and contractors, (most of whom live locally) for whom we can ensure we provide healthy, and health promoting, workplaces.

In broad terms our strategy for Health should be to complement the work of other agencies and to continue to develop our role in the following aspects:

1. Work with health partners in delivering the locally relevant parts of the Local Area Agreement.
2. Maintain links with PCT, GP consortia and other health groups providing Council representation on these groups when requested and appropriate.

3. Advocate for East Devon's local health issues to other partners and agencies.
4. Advocate for the health needs of rural populations (especially access issues) with partners and other agencies.
5. Scrutinise the changing local and national health needs, and the priorities and activities of other health providers (including changes to the level of service). Develop the Health Equalities aspect of the Environmental Health & Health Equalities Service and maintain regional and national links through their Corporate Director.
6. Promote social and environmental health issues to local communities and continue Council actions to do this. Use our in-house publicity to assist in information provision.
7. Promote positive mental health both within the Council and in our communities
8. Exercise our range of regulatory functions for public health.
9. Make direct provision for health, and healthy activity, when this complements (but does not duplicate or override) the role of other agencies, and where it is permitted by budgets and priorities.
10. Assess the health impact of major new developments, and ensure that the wider aspects of health are recognised in the development framework and policy.
11. Assist in consultation (with other agencies) to establish the wider health priorities of our local communities and (working alongside our Equalities and Diversity activity) seek to better ensure Health Equalities across all parts of our community.

Outcomes

The outcome of this policy is that EDDC as a community leader continues to make a difference to the overall health and wellbeing of East Devon but in a way which narrows gaps and which complements and stimulates activity by other health related agencies.

Who is responsible for delivery?

This area of policy falls to the Communities Portfolio holder and the relevant Corporate Director. The various service and Member roles are as set out in Appendix 1.

Performance Monitoring

This will primarily be through our monitoring of Local Area Agreement activity.

Policy Consultation

All services.

Policy Review

To be reviewed by the relevant Corporate Director in December 2010.

Related Policies and Strategies

Human Resources Policy

Equality Policy

Environmental \Health Policies

Waste Policies

Housing Policies

Planning Policies and many others

What is EDDC doing to promote, maintain or improve health?**Function:**

1) **Housing & Social Inclusion Service –
Housing (shelter) is a fundamental health need**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Provision of, and advice on, Council housing	A basic safety net, housing is a basic health need. Keep advice quite and helpful to reduce stress.
Sheltered housing	Protection for vulnerable people
Promotion/development of affordable housing	Protection for low income people
Housing repairs and design	Ensuring houses are fit for habitation, for all needs including special needs. Ensuring housing environments are healthy and health promoting (e.g. recreation)
Home Safeguard	Emergency call system for vulnerable people including telecare and home visiting.
Housing adaptations	Meeting the needs of disabled and frail people
Tenant Participation	Empowerment and safe activity for tenants (e.g. change 4 life, falls awareness).
Tackling anti-social behaviour in and around Council housing	Tackling mental health (stress) from fear of crime.

Function:

2) **Environmental Health & Health Equalities –
Regulation and advice to limit adverse impact of the Environment**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Private Housing condition and safety	Protecting people from unfit and unsafe housing
Housing adaptation	Meeting the needs of disabled frail people
Affordable warmth	Combating risk of hypothermia
Dog control	Safety for stray dogs and fouling
Pest control	Controlling pest-borne diseases
Air Pollution control	Reducing risks to respiration
Noise pollution control	Reducing stress
Food hygiene	Preventing food borne illness
Private water supply quality	Preventing water borne illness

Health and Safety at Work

Preventing occupational injury and disease, and safety advice to events organisers

Drainage and sanitation

Preventing disease from foul water

Contaminated land

Reducing toxic substances in land

Infections disease control

Reducing illness

Function:

3) **Planning Policy and Development Control –
Regulation to avoid inappropriate or undesirable uses of land**

What do we do?	How will it impact on health?
Avoiding nuisances (overcrowding, pollution, noise etc)	Preventing stress and illness whilst permitting housing work and leisure
Improving amenity and appearance through suitable design and regulation	Reducing stress and improving mental wellbeing
Controlling and granting planning permission saying yes to good development	Regulating the balance of new housing, work, leisure facilities, and natural space. Using design to maximise sustainability, sense of wellbeing and enable access (e.g. cycle stores)
Conserving the heritage environment	Mental health – sense of place

Function:

4) **Building Control – the safety and health of new buildings**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Approval of new structures and alterations to existing structures	Assuring new and altered buildings are fit, safe and suitable for habitation now and into the future
Fire risk assessments	Protecting from fire risk
Review of potentially unsafe existing structures	Reducing risk to health from unsafe structures
Access audits	Ensure safe and suitable access for all sections of our community

Function

5) **Land Changes**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Land charges	Ensuring 'no surprises' for new occupiers of local land and housing

Function:

6) **Countryside – Promotion and maintenance of our natural environment for People**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Promoting and making accessible the local countryside and open spaces	Countryside as a safe place to de-stress and be active and feel close to nature
Developing countryside related skills, interests and knowledge	Promoting interest, a sense of wellbeing and self worth
Litter collection on SW Coast Path	Reducing risks to health from litter
Maintenance of access	Keeping countryside infrastructure (gates/stiles etc) safe
Educational guided visits	Ensuring young people's initial introduction to the countryside is safe and inspiring
Community engagement	Providing empowerment, social and educational networking opportunities, and physical activity within the countryside for all ages
Manage the Council owned tree population	Attractive parks and places for people to enjoy for social reasons
Manage the statutory tree function of the Council	Enables people to live and work in a healthy and natural environment Reduces risk of damage to persons and property, enhances the biodiversity of the locality
Promote and give advice and guidance on the safe provision, management and retention of individual trees, groups of trees, woodlands and hedgerows Controlling, advising on, and granting consent for works to trees and hedgerows covered by planning regulations	Maintains and enhances the sustainability of the locality

Function:

7) **Culture and Leisure – keeping mind and body active in a social way**

What do we do?	How will it impact?
Sports facilities	Promoting active lifestyles
Arts facilities	Promoting social and engaging activity
Arts promotion	Promoting interest and sense of wellbeing and worth
Arts business	Providing opportunities for self improvement and support

Function

8) **Streetscene – Cleansing, waste management, and maintaining land and water safety**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Street cleaning (and litter bins)	Reducing risks to health from litter and fly tipping (pests, disease, sharp waste etc.) and the adverse impact of these on fear of crime etc.
Waste collection and recycling	Reducing risk to health from waste or its disposal
Parks and Gardens	Places of relaxation and pleasure
Grounds maintenance	Keeping public open space and play/sports available and attractive for use. Promoting and supporting volunteer gardening groups (e.g. Britain in Bloom)
Public conveniences	Maintaining public facilities hygiene safe and suitable for use (a basic public health function)
Cemeteries	Maintaining facilities in a hygienic safe and suitable state for people who are often in a delicate mental state
Water, beach and foreshore safety	Reducing risks from use and enjoyment of water and adjacent land
Coastal protection and flooding	Reducing public risk from coastal erosion or flooding
Emergency planning	Reducing health risks from civil emergencies and seeking to return to 'normal' as soon as possible
Allotments	Gardening as a healthy (physical and nutritional) activity

Function

9) **Property Services – keeping buildings and land fit and safe**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Maintenance, repair and improvement	Keeping users of public and Council buildings fit and safe and capable to sustaining the users activities or businesses. Accessibility for people with disabilities.

Function

10) **Economic Development and Regeneration**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Seeking to develop work opportunities, maximise benefits from use of land, regenerate 'tired' areas	Opportunities for financial and self improvement. Improving poor physical infrastructure for current and future needs
	Serviced workshop to reduce risk and stress of new businesses set up

Function**11) Finance – ensuring fairness and funding of services, safeguarding the most financially vulnerable**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Tax raising	Raising funds for services including health related Council functions
Council Tax, housing and business benefits, allowances, discounts and exemptions	Allocating, and also signposting and promoting, Benefits allowances, reductions and relief to help financial viability and capability of the least well off households in East Devon. Debt advice provision, Proactive work in case of local company redundancies

Function**12) Legal and Member Services – supporting the duties of other parts of the Council**

What do we do?	How will it impact?
Support other services and Member functions	Assist in health impacts decisions
Licensing	Controlling safety and nuisance from licensed premises to protect users, proprietors and the public
	Providing safe and controlled taxis

Function**13) ICT – supporting the duties of other parts of the Council with equipment, systems and communications**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Support and provision of ICT equipment and systems	Allowing other services to make health impacts. Creating links between services and reducing duplicative work (frustrating)
Development of website	Permitting information self service systems for the public, including those with a health dimension. Also signposting to health services

Function**14) Organisational Development – wellbeing and efficiency of human resources, and effective systems to communicate and consult**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Staff wellbeing	Management of stress and other illness, balancing work and home life with family-friendly policies, promoting positive mental health and physical activity.
Recruitment	Managing suitability of people to their work in order to reduce risk of stress, injury or prejudice
Consultation and communication	Allowing people self-determination and information

Function**15) Customer Service Centre**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Customer Service	Reducing stress through advice, reassurance and assistance

Function**16) Corporate function – strategic roles and a community leader which include those that have a health impact**

What do we do?	How will it impacts on health?
Crime and disorder	Seeking to identify and address the issues that most impact on mental stress or physical risk. Work to combat persistent anti-social behaviour
Community Planning	Engaging other organisations in working together to tackle issues that most affect our communities (including health issues)
Acting as a champion for disadvantaged groups and individuals	Equalities work, signposting during home visits etc
Representation on outside bodies	Engaging other organisations in working together to tackle issues that most affect our communities (including health issues)
Scrutinising the PCT in East Devon	Influencing local health policy and clinical services
Elections	Giving local people opportunity for self determination
Sustainability	Sustainable healthy lifestyles
Policy and budgetary development	Providing the framework, opportunities and balance between activities (including those with a health impact)

Health Profile of East Devon

Health Problems	Exeter & Torbay HMAs	East Devon	Sub-market			Key Settlements	
			Coastal Towns	Honiton Sub-market	Exeter Sub-market	Honiton urban	Exmouth urban
Visual impairment	1.9%	1.8%	2.0%	3.6%	1.9%	4.2%	1.0%
Hearing impairment	2.4%	2.7%	2.4%	2.1%	2.7%	3.5%	3.3%
Wheelchair user	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	2.0%	0.6%	2.7%	1.7%
Other walking or mobility difficulties	13.7%	13.1%	12.8%	12.1%	11.2%	8.5%	11.8%
Mental health problems	2.4%	1.5%	1.1%	2.2%	1.8%	2.3%	1.5%
Learning disability	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	2.4%	0.5%	3.1%	0.0%
Diabetes	3.0%	2.7%	4.8%	2.9%	2.7%	1.8%	1.6%
Respiratory problems	3.9%	1.2%	2.6%	1.7%	2.6%	1.5%	0.5%
Alcohol and/or drug problems	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.6%	0.0%
Difficulties due to old age or frailty	5.0%	7.3%	10.8%	1.7%	6.1%	0.0%	8.1%
Other long-term illness, disability or infirmity not listed above	12.2%	11.3%	17.4%	9.7%	12.9%	9.4%	5.5%
Sub-totals							
One or more problems	30.0%	26.8%	35.0%	20.6%	27.7%	18.5%	20.8%

East Devon DC Corporate Strategy

1. Affordable Homes
2. Thriving Economy
3. Safe, Clean and Green Environment
4. Recycling
5. Children and Young People
6. Excellent services for customers
7. Inspirational Council

East Devon Sustainable Communities Strategy

The themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy each with its single most important priority are to be reflected in the Core Strategy. These are:

Community Safety - Tackling anti-social behaviour.

Inclusion & Access - To target community support work into geographical areas where we have recognised difficulties.

Housing in East Devon - Ensuring that a good quality affordable home is available to far more households resident in the district, and that each home is adequate in size and suitably located for the occupants.

Keeping Healthy & Independent - Positive mental health (it is a fundamental requirement upon which other aspects of health and social improvement rely).

Culture & Leisure in East Devon - Maintaining and improving upon opportunities for social networking and integration.

Protecting and Enhancing the Environment - To seek to improve access, value, quality and use of our local environment in order to improve the physical and mental health of local communities.

Economic Development - Increasing opportunities for raising average income through regeneration.

East Devon Local Development Framework- Issues and Options Document

1. To secure a bright green future: through promoting environmental sustainability and to include:

promoting the greening of urban areas and tree planting in new developments;
production of renewable energy and reductions in energy consumption;
taking account of projected climate change;
reducing the carbon footprint of East Devon;
reducing waste and
reducing the need to travel, where practicable.

2. To promote opportunities for new business to start up and for existing businesses to expand and develop in urban and rural areas:

in order to meet changing and evolving business demands and opportunities;
To promote traditional and sustainable green tourism;
To support the role of Exeter International Airport.

3. To raise household incomes in the District above regional averages through:

promoting economic activity and employment opportunities close to where people live and encouraging and promoting access to education and training for all residents of the District.

4. To provide the widest range of market and affordable housing:
with access to services and to meet the needs of the whole community.

5. To link up communities:

to create opportunities for coordinated and efficient provision and delivery of services and access to information to ensure accessibility by a range of means of transport for all to:
health facilities;
retail outlets;
places to work;
cultural, leisure and sporting facilities; and
community services, social care and policing.

6. To protect, enhance and ensure we make the best use of our natural assets:

to recognise the importance of our finest natural assets including:
the sea;
the countryside and our agricultural landscape;
our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty,
our rivers and estuaries,
our cliff tops and heathlands; and
our hedges, trees and woodlands.
our built heritage
the variety of wildlife.

7. To focus most large scale development in East Devon's West End:

To ensure significant new growth is located close to major transport routes and networks and major economically vibrant population centres.

8. To meet the needs of market and coastal towns:

To ensure we encourage growth and development to meet needs and encourage the prosperity of our towns, whilst maintaining their local distinctiveness.

9. Promote a sustainable countryside and sustainable rural communities:

to ensure we promote the vitality and viability of our rural communities and meet their varied and many needs.

10. To ensure we plan ahead:

to make sure that physical, social and cultural infrastructure is provided to support, facilitate and complement new development.

In the future we are planning to hold LDF events with the appropriate agencies on the following areas:

Healthcare and Health Provision and Healthy Lifestyles.
Education Provision and Enhancement.
Engaging with young people
Economic development and the planning process.
Transport and Accessibility.

Local Area Agreement for Devon

The LAA has the following themes:

A World Class Environment
Strong and Inclusive Communities
A Growing Economy
Homes and Housing
Inspiring Young People
Health and Wellbeing
A Safer Devon

Within 'Health and Wellbeing' there are several priorities for Devon:

Promote independence
Improve support and services for carers
Maintain and increase levels of physical activity and sport
Promote health and reduce health inequalities

Specifically for East Devon we have agreed to prioritise 'Maintain and increase levels of physical activity and sport'

However it is recognised that East Devon is likely to be making a contribution across many of the themes and priorities

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 3 September 2009

Present:

Councillors:

Iain Chubb (Chairman)
Trevor Cope (Vice Chairman)

Malcolm Florey
Ben Ingham
John Jeffery
Stuart Luxton
Bob Peachey
Tim Wood

Officers:

Mark Williams – Chief Executive
Nigel Harrison – Economic Development Manager
John Maidment – Planning Policy Manager
Diana Vernon – Democratic Services Manager

Also Present

Councillors:

Ray Bloxham
Paul Diviani
Jill Elson
Peter Halse
Andrew Moulding
Philip Skinner

Petra Davis - West Devon Business Information Point
Stewart Home - West Devon Business Information Point

Apologies:

Councillors:

Graham Godbeer
Steve Wragg

Apologies from non-Committee Members

Councillors:

Steve Hall
Pauline Stott

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 9.30pm.

*4

Public question time

There were no questions from the public raised at this point of the meeting.

The Chairman invited Philip Skinner, Rural Member Champion to brief Members on the Rural Devon Profile 2009 produced by the Devon Rural Network, which he had circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor Skinner said that it was a worthwhile and well-presented document which Members may wish to discuss at a future meeting.

*5

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview/Scrutiny – Economy Committee held on 11 June 2009 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

6 **Business Tenants' Survey**

The Economic Development Manager outlined the background to the survey of the Council's 40 small business units undertaken by West Devon Business Information Point (BIP) on behalf of EDDC. The purpose was to gather quantitative and qualitative data from East Devon Business tenants in respect of:

- How businesses were trading during the current economic climate
- The service received from their landlord (EDDC)
- What would benefit their business in terms of support

In addition to collecting valuable data, the exercise showed tenants that the Council was proactively seeking ways of providing a better, targeted service. Using an independent surveyor to undertake the work had produced candid feedback. It also gave BIP the opportunity to advise the tenants about other services and support that was freely available to them.

Petra Davis of West Devon BIP briefed Members on the way in which the survey had been carried out, the level of response, details of the businesses, including length of time they had been trading, number of employees and business type.

Businesses had been asked about what they were trying to achieve, what the barriers were to this achievement and what help they needed to survive the next 12 months.

The survey included questions specific to the recession, such as: 'had the business already experienced a reduction in turnover?' What measures had been put in place to protect their business, and alternatively, what action had been taken to meet growth.

Businesses were questioned about their marketing strategy/investment, competitor activity and funding opportunities.

Based on the collated feedback, BIP was able to prepare an overview of the current trading picture in East Devon. Businesses had been affected by a reduction in consumer numbers and confidence. However, although the majority of businesses who responded reported a decrease in turnover on the previous year, most were sole traders or partners and had been able to adapt quickly to market changes. Feedback indicated that other barriers to growth included the lack of appropriate 'next step' business units to allow their businesses to expand and the limited number of workshops generally available in the district. Other local barriers were noted including inadequate security at some workshops.

Feedback indicated that EDDC generally had a good reputation as landlord although there was comment that EDDC should give preference to businesses with potential to provide employment in the area and/or those which would attract footfall to the site for the benefit of all the businesses located there.

Generally, businesses did not seek business advice despite the recession for a number of reasons including that many factors were beyond the control of the business.

BIP identified a number of key issues for discussion, namely:

- EDDC to review the practice of units being used for storage purposes as this limited the number of units available for other tenants,
- The average length of tenure meant that opportunities were not created for new business start up. Was this due to the lack of alternative workspace in the district or that rents were too attractively low to encourage the tenant to move? How could the Council encourage movement out of the start up units?
- Where a business was seeking to quit their premises due to difficult trading, EDDC should consider a relaxation on 3 months' notice.
- Consideration be given to providing publicly funded business support.

Business Tenants' Survey (cont)..

Members discussed the issue raised in respect of the lack of availability of start up and 'next step' business units. Although the Council's original intention in providing the business units was to help businesses to start up, generally tenants were not moving on to larger premises for a number of reasons including that the units' size, location and cost suited their purposes and EDDC was a fair landlord. In addition, although a number of businesses wished to expand, the only other units available in the area were too large and therefore prohibitively expensive.

The Portfolio Holder – Economy felt that the detail in the report was useful and from this he was able to highlight 3 key issues, namely:

- The workshops had been provided by the Council to help generate new business and employment with the intention of the businesses becoming established and moving on to larger premises. However this was not happening for the reasons already referred to above,
- Some units were being used for storage purposes and this needed to be investigated,
- The Council needed to support businesses in a holistic way, looking at what skills were needed by local businesses and how business activity could be sustained.

Members recognised the benefits of the business units to the tenants and in seeking to provide additional opportunities for new businesses needed to ensure that the existing businesses were not disadvantaged. The Committee recognised that a vital step was to identify new land for economic development using the survey as part of the evidence base to establish need. The district needed more small start up basic business units as well as larger 'next step' units to allow established small businesses to expand. It was suggested that the Council could introduce incremental rents over a period to help new businesses to establish themselves and encourage them to move into larger premises. The planning system needed to be supportive of the need to provide business units although Members' recognised the constraints of policy and planning frameworks.

It was suggested that that the Council should explore private opportunities for providing business units.

Members were reminded of the value of advice and support provided in the past through EDSIG and the Heart of Devon Enterprise Agency. These organisations used business volunteers to give free advice to businesses. It was suggested that the East Devon Business Forum could be asked to seek ways to address this gap in provision.

The Business Member Champion confirmed that the Council was committed to achieving a thriving economy within the district. This was dependent on the viability of small businesses as the majority of business stock in East Devon comprised micro businesses (under 5 employees). He advised that the Council should develop a clear strategic plan, including all relevant elements, such as planning, to drive the economy forward.

The Economic Development Manager advised that he would thank the tenants for taking part in the survey and would share the results with them. He confirmed that the rents charged reflected the market place, as far as this could be ascertained, as a means of achieving the best use of Council assets. The findings would be reported to the Asset Management Forum and would be used as part of the service planning process.

RECOMMENDED (1) that the Economic Development Manager and the Estates and Legal Teams look at the business unit tenancy agreements and seek ways to proactively manage the units so that they are used to achieve maximum benefit for local businesses,

6 **Business Tenants' Survey (cont)..**

- (2) that the Economic Development Manager prepare a report for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting* proposing ways of addressing the inadequate provision of small and medium sized business units in East Devon with the report including the need for the Local Development Framework to identify this gap in provision which would enable the Council to work proactively, for example through partnership working.

*The Committee will be up-dated at the next meeting on progress in respect of the Devon Employment Space Strategy. This together with the above discussion and recommendation could serve as the basis for a full report to the following meeting, bringing the various strands together. Members may wish to consider timetabling in a special meeting of their Committee to discuss this report in detail.

7 **Rural enterprise Development – Review of the Council's business support programme July 2007 – March 2009**

Members noted the review of the Council's business support programme, which was presented to the Committee by Stewart Horne from West Devon Business Information Point. Mr Horne recognised that independent and impartial advice was not always easy to obtain but was now available through Business Link (which largely accessed needs and acted as a 'signposting' service), Business Information Point, and Rural Enterprise Development.

Due to the Heart of Devon Enterprise Agency ceasing trading, the Rural Enterprise Development initiative was being delivered by BIP via workshops and business support. Members noted the various workshops that had been delivered in East Devon, how these had been marketed and the outcomes. East Devon District Council had provided £82,000 towards the Rural Enterprise Development initiative and this drew a further £31,000 in Devon Renaissance funds to support East Devon businesses.

Learning opportunities were also available through 'Train to Gain' but small businesses generally preferred short training programmes or sessions to fill a skills' gap rather than commitment to gaining National Vocational Qualifications. The value of business networking was also acknowledged.

Members noted additional support activity from BIP and planned future activity subject to funding. Mr Horne had submitted 2 funding bids, one to Making it Local and another to the Economic Challenge Fund. The Economic Development Manager advised that there was £40,000 in the Council's current budget to fund this initiative; the 2010/11 budget had yet to be agreed.

The Portfolio Holder – Economy emphasised the need for the Council to achieve value for money.

The Business Champion noted that limited support in the area was given to micro businesses (less than 5 employees). He stressed the importance of supporting these small businesses and meeting their individual training needs. In addition to helping with funding, he emphasised the importance of the Council acting as a training advocate, supporting training initiatives. He believed that the profile of training should be raised. He said that 'bite sized' learning units best suited small enterprises. He suggested that the Council should establish a database of training providers in the district. This would enable the Council to signpost businesses to available training opportunities.

7

Rural enterprise Development – Review of the Council’s business support programme July 2007 – March 2009 (cont)..

- RECOMMENDED**
- (1) that a database of training providers available in East Devon be established for the benefit of local business people,
 - (2) that the Council continue to support the Rural Enterprise Development initiative and include £40,000 in the 2010/11 budget,
 - (3) that the Council use e mail-shots to advise local businesses of training opportunities available and encourage them to take advantage of this provision.

(Councillor Paul Diviani, who was an observer at the meeting, declared a personal interest in this item as Chairman of ‘Making it Local’.

*8

Consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for prosperous economies

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager, which advised them of the publication of a Government Consultation Paper on a New Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 4: Planning for Prosperous Economies. The Development Management Committee had already discussed the paper and had fed its comments into the consultation process. Members of the Overview/Scrutiny Committee was asked to note the contents of the Policy Statement as it showed the importance that the Government placed on economic development.

The new guidance consolidated all National Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) on economic development, in urban and rural areas and town centres, into a single PPS.

Members welcomed the Ministerial Statement accompanying the publication of the Consultation Paper as it highlighted the need for the planning system to support the economic aspirations of both urban and rural communities and for proportionate and flexible policies to support the start up and growth of businesses. It also emphasised the importance of safeguarding town centres, which were seen as the ‘bedrock of our economic future’. The Statement recognised that economic sustainability was a prerequisite for social and environmental sustainability.

Particular reference was made to the following:

Paragraph 1.2 – ‘Positively and proactively encourage sustainable economic growth in urban and rural areas’... based on a clear and proactive locally specified economic vision and strategy,

Paragraph 1.7 – Economic development in open countryside to be strictly controlled. The need to protect the countryside was recognised but the need for economic development in rural areas was also an acknowledged need.

Paragraph 1.19 – ‘Support small scale economic development where it provides the most sustainable option in villages, or other locations, that are remote from local service centres, recognising that a site may be an acceptable location or development even though it may not be readily accessible by public transport’.

Paragraph 1.30 - the Government was supportive of the replacement of suitably located, existing buildings of permanent design and construction in the countryside for economic development purposes’.

*8

Consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for prosperous economies (cont)..

The Planning Policy Manager advised that the final version was anticipated by the end of the year.

The Chairman of Development Management welcomed the new PPS but reminded the Committee that it was still only in draft and that the Council had to continue to work within the existing policy framework in the meantime. Emerging documents were useful but had little weight and currently only reflected Government thinking.

The Rural Member Champion suggested that the Council should make more use of 'departure policy' so that economic development could be progressed.

The Portfolio Holder, Communities felt that town centres should be more tightly defined. Over the last few decades town functions had sprawled into the surrounding area often due to the high business rates for town centre premises. However, it would be of benefit to the on-going viability of town centres to clearly define their core and defend this against change of use. Members were reminded of the problems of managing the different needs of the evening/night and day town economies.

The Chairman of Development Management reminded the Committee that PPS7, in respect of rural buildings in the countryside, was a 2001 policy; if a building was not fit for purpose its use could be changed or the building replaced. He added that economic development applications needed to be identified for particular consideration.

The Portfolio Holder, Economy advised that utilitarian barns had been erected but which were now too small and in the wrong location but which were not fit for conversion. He would welcome the opportunity for these to be pulled down and replaced with a building which was fit for purpose. However this approach was often resisted by planners. He added that affordable housing and economic development were Council priorities and therefore could be taken into account as material (essential) considerations.

The new policy would help the Council to achieve its corporate priorities in respect of economic development and would include flexibility to respond to local needs.

RESOLVED that the emerging Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Prosperous Economies be welcomed and the feedback of the Development Management Committee on the consultation be noted.

Chairman

Date

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Forward Plan 2009/10

Month	Topic	Lead
18 November 2009	CAA continued EDDC and Health Services	Diccon Pearse Peter Jeffs
18 January 2010	Service Planning and Budget meeting (all day) on detail of the 2010/2011 plans and budget	Heads of Service
27 January 2010	Final recommendations on Service Plans and Budgets for 2010/2011 CAA continued	Diccon Pearse Diccon Pearse
17 March 2010	CAA continued Review of the year to date	Diccon Pearse

Future topics to include:

- Local Development Framework (LDF)
- The Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (England) Regulations 2009 no.1919
- Sustainable Communities Act
- Closer working with Towns and Parishes
- Examining the Corporate Strategy