

Date: 8 March 2010
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To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee
(Councillors: Ray Bloxham; Peter Bowden; Iain Chubb; Trevor Cope;
Christine Drew; Chris Gibbings; Roger Giles; Graham Godbeer;
Steve Hall; Stephanie Jones; David Key; Jim Knight; Frances Newth;
Barry Nicholson; Marion Olive; Helen Parr; Bob Peachey; Ken Potter;
Graham Troman; Eileen Wragg; Steve Wragg)

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

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Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Wednesday, 17 March 2010 – 6.30pm

Council Chamber, Knowle, Sidmouth

Members please to bring your agenda papers from previous meeting on 2 February 2010

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.

- A period of 15 minutes has been provided at the beginning of the meeting to allow members of the public to raise questions.
- In addition, the public may speak on items listed on the agenda. After a report has been introduced, 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 the 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. 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
2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 27 January 2010 and 2 February 2010 4 –26
3. To receive any apologies for absence
4. To receive any declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda.
5. 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).
6. 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.
 7. 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.
 8. **Local Development Framework**
 - a) **Consultation arrangements for the core strategy** Paper by Claire Rodway covering the planned workshops for consulting on the emerging core strategy; 27 - 29
 - b) **Progress and key questions:** Continuing from the Special Meeting held on 2 February 2010, Members are asked to consider the key questions set out in the report. Please bring your agenda papers from the 2 February 2010; Agenda papers 2 Feb 2010
 - c) **Presentation on the employment segment of the Core Strategy** by Karime Hassan, Corporate Director. Verbal presentation
 9. **Update from the Chairman of Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on meeting held on 25 February 2010.** Verbal report
 10. **Update from the Chairman of Service Delivery and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee on meeting held on 17 February 2010.** Verbal report
 11. **Update from the Chairman of Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on meeting held on 10 March 2010.** Verbal report
 12. **Review of the Year** 30 - 32

Members are asked to consider the draft report for Annual Council on the work of the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the past civic year.
 13. **Overview and Scrutiny Committees Forward Plan** 33

Members remember!

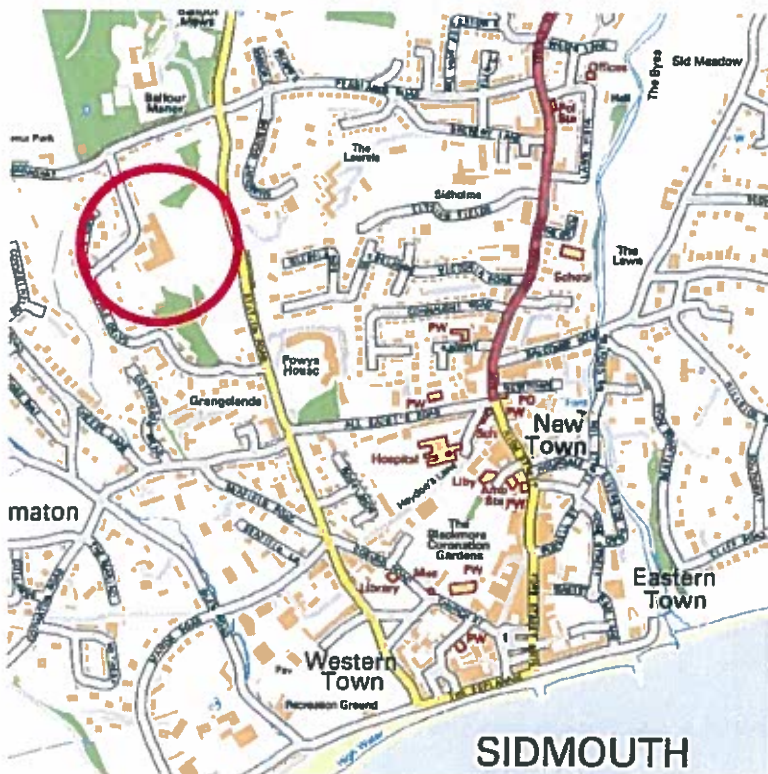
- You must declare the nature of any personal or prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.
- Where you have a personal interest because the business relates to or is likely to affect a body of which you are a member or manager as an EDDC nominee or appointee, then you need only disclose that interest when (and if) you speak on the item. The same rule applies if you have a personal interest in relation to a body exercising functions of a public nature.
- 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.

Suggestions for questioning during an Overview and Scrutiny meeting

Below are some prompts which may help you to form your own questions to ask at an Overview and Scrutiny meeting. Your questioning technique is crucial in creating an atmosphere conducive to open answers. Avoid excessive interrogation and treat those being questioned with courtesy and respect; however don't be afraid to ask supplementary questions if you feel that you haven't been given a clear answer.

- **IS IT REQUIRED?** (do we have this, does it make sense to tackle it, do we really need it).
- **IS IT SYSTEMS THINKING?** (is it evidence based and designed around the customer demands)
- **IS THE INTENTION CLEAR?** (what are we actually trying to achieve)
- **ANY REAL OUTCOMES?** (are we actually, and measurably, achieving things for our customers).
- **WHAT IS THE COST?** (both time and money)
- **DOES IT COMPLY?** (have we checked that it meets our obligations, the law, any formal guidance, and any Council policy or resolutions).
- **OTHERS DO WHAT?** (how do other organisations tackle this, best practice)
- **EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT?** (how do we know we're doing things well, in a timely fashion, and at "best value")
- **WHAT IS THE RISK?** (any areas of risk for the Council)
- **ANYONE LOSE OUT?** (are there sections of the community who might be disadvantaged by this approach, or be less able to take advantage, than others)
- **DOES IT LINK?** (have we linked this to other, similar, pieces of work within or outside the Council)

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 – 52B
From Seaton – 52A
From Ottery St Mary – 379, 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 27 January 2010

Present:

Councillors:

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

Peter Bowden
Iain Chubb
Chris Gibbings
Roger Giles
Graham Godbeer
Steve Hall

David Key
Jim Knight
Frances Newth
Marion Olive
Helen Parr
Ken Potter
Graham Troman

Officers:

Simon Davey – Head of Finance
John Golding – Head of Housing
Karime Hassan – Corporate Director
Peter Jeffs – Corporate Director
Karen Jenkins – Head of Organisational Development
Debbie Meakin – Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Seddon – Senior Solicitor
Mark Williams – Chief Executive

Also Present

Councillors:

Vivienne Ash
David Atkins
Graham Brown
Geoff Chamberlain
Paul Diviani
Jill Elson
Stuart Hughes
Douglas Hull

Ann Liverton
Graham Liverton
Andrew Moulding
Sara Randall-Johnson
Tony Reed
Phillip Skinner
Pauline Stott
Tim Wood

Apologies:

Christine Drew
Stephanie Jones
Eileen Wragg
Steve Wragg

Diccon Pearse – Corporate Director

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 8.57pm.

*29 **Public question time**

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

*30 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 18 November 2009 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*31 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor/ Officer	Agenda Item	Type of interest	Nature of interest
Councillor Jill Elson	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Chairman of the Exmouth & District Community Transport Group (Ring and Ride)
Councillor Bob Peachey	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Representative on the Exe Estuary Project
Councillor Jim Knight	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Member of Seaton Town Council running the TIC
Councillor Steve Hall	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Member of Budleigh Salterton group running the TIC
Councillor Vivienne Ash	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Council representative on TRIP
Councillor Douglas Hull	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Wife is representative on Ring and Ride Scheme
Councillor Graham Brown	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Chairman of East Devon Business Forum
Councillor Andrew Moulding	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Representative on "Making it Local"
Councillor Paul Diviani	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Chairman of "Making it Local"
Councillor Chris Gibbings	8. Draft Service Plans and Budget 2010/11	Personal	Council representative on CAB

32 **Draft Service Plans for 2010/2013 and Budget for 2010/2011**

The Leader took the opportunity to circulate amongst Members a draft Executive Board report which was due to be issued on Monday 1 February. The report outlined the proposal to share services with South Somerset in order to achieve savings. She outlined the advantages of sharing services with South Somerset in terms of the similarities with East Devon, which included that both areas comprised of market towns; both Councils were politically stable; and both shared common corporate priorities. She emphasised that the proposals were concerned with sharing services and therefore saving money, whilst each Council would retain its sovereignty. She urged Members, in their duty to manage the public purse, to consider the potential savings that could be made in order to help retain funds for front line services.

Mark Williams, Chief Executive, reminded Members that even if they were in agreement with sharing services, and assuming that there would be an increase in Council Tax higher than 2%, the budget would still need to be supplemented by £600,000 from reserves. Reserves were being depleted to the level that urgent action needed to be taken, and any savings identified, as in those presented to the Committee, would help.

At this point in the meeting, Mr John Dyson of Sidmouth outlined the use of the Ham and Manor Road car parks in Sidmouth, voicing his concern about proposed car park charge increases proposed despite his earlier consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy. He urged the Committee to give the Towns and Parishes another opportunity to discuss a way forward to help increase revenue for underused car parks rather than accepting a flat increase on all charges.

The Chairman referred Members to the recent meeting of the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where several Chamber of Commerce representatives had raised concern about the increase in car park charges. He also outlined the savings to the public in purchasing season tickets. Many Members also added their support to the recommendation of the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Portfolio Holder of Economy to speak directly with the Chambers of Commerce; and to increase publicity on the value to the public of season tickets.

The Chairman gave a brief synopsis of the work of the Task and Finish Forum on 18 January 2010 and the recommendations made as a result.

In response to a question about the remit of investigating sharing services, the Chief Executive outlined to Members the agreement in principle at both Executive Board and Council to sharing services with another authority. The authority with which to share was debated, including Mid Devon District Council, Exeter City Council and West Dorset District Council as well as South Somerset District Council. He advised Members that further options could be explored if they wished, but said that the other authorities had already been approached and due to barriers and difficulties there was no imminent likelihood of another viable option for the Council other than sharing services with South Somerset. If no sharing of services was undertaken, much more drastic action would need to be taken in a major management restructure to achieve savings, which would adversely impact on service delivery.

In response to a question about sharing services with Teignbridge District Council, the Leader outlined the long history of considering linking with Exeter back when David Milliband brought the unitary concept to the fore. She also outlined the unit costs that the County Council had proposed for taking on some shared services, such as audit and payroll, but the unit costs were too high, and could be delivered in house at less cost. The Chief Executive also reminded Members of the performance record of South Somerset, and how that could help the Council to improve its services.

The Members reserved further debate on the issue of sharing services to the next meeting of the Executive Board on 10 February.

32 **Draft Service Plans for 2010/2013 and Budget for 2010/2011 (cont.)**

Members then considered the recommendations made by the Task and Finish Forum.

Streetscene

- RECOMMENDED**
1. that the increase in 15 pence and the other changes as per the circulated variance in car park charges be adopted;
 2. that a meeting be held with East Devon business organisations and the Economy Portfolio Holder to discuss the car parking charges in East Devon for future years;
 3. that the savings possible to regular car park users by purchasing season tickets be publicised;
 4. that £50,000 be removed from budget for car parks maintenance;
 5. that £50,000 be removed from budget for parks and pleasure grounds seasonal staff;
 6. that £82,210 be removed from budget for parks and pleasure grounds bedding/planting displays;
 7. that £8,570 be removed from budget for play equipment;
 8. that £18,080 proposed saving be kept in budget for public conveniences;
 9. that £81,940 proposed saving be kept in budget for street cleansing;
 10. that £3,000 be removed from budget for street nameplates.

Environmental Health: Out of Hours Noise Nuisance

- RECOMMENDED**
11. that half of the proposed £48,140 saving be kept in the budget for out of hours noise complaint service;

Proposed savings on contributions

- RECOMMENDED**
12. that £4,390 proposed saving be kept in budget for contribution to TRIP running costs;
 13. that £1,640 proposed saving be kept in budget for contribution to the Devon Racial Equality;
 14. that £23,030 be removed from budget for the grant to the EDVSA; future funding would be subject to a negotiated Service Level Agreement;
 15. that £7,140 proposed saving be kept in budget for the grant to the Community Council of Devon;
 16. that £10,000 proposed saving be kept in budget for the grant to Villages in Action;
 17. that £500 proposed saving be kept in budget for the sand sculpting competition;
 18. that £1,500 proposed saving be kept in budget for the contribution to Museums Officer;
 19. that £10,300 proposed saving be amended by 10% to £9,270 kept in budget for the contribution to the Exmouth Exe Estuary Project, subject to support from other partner agencies;
 20. that £58,820 proposed saving be kept in budget for the grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Economy and Development

- RECOMMENDED**
21. that £10,000 be removed from budget for carbon management programme initiatives;
 22. that £6,780 be removed from budget for East Devon Business Centre phase 1 RDA workspace rental;
 23. that £24,070 proposed saving be kept in budget for TIC support. Portfolio Holder for Economy to offer an alternative saving to the same value;
 24. that £17,000 be removed from budget for funding to the Blackdown Hills AONB;
 25. that £5,000 proposed saving be kept in budget for practical support to the East Devon Business Forum;
 26. that £5,000 be removed from budget for contribution to Exeter & Heart of Devon.

Electoral Registration

- RECOMMENDED** 27. that £70 be removed from budget for electoral registration update costs with an amended increased figure to be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for inclusion of electronic updates to Towns and Parishes.

Legal, Licensing and Democratic Services

- RECOMMENDED** 28. that £1,500 be removed from budget for Local Democracy Week;
29. that £8,400 be removed from budget for increase in Members' Allowances.

Organisational Development

- RECOMMENDED** 30. that £17,640 production costs for East Devon Talk and £3,000 photography for East Devon Talk be reduced to £6,000 in total for the overall production of the publication;
31. that £3,060 be removed from budget for PR packs produced by the Communications Team;
32. that £8,000 be removed from budget for the Best Councils Survey.

Finance

- RECOMMENDED** 33. that 9,630 be removed from budget for the housing benefit training contract;
34. that £24,060 proposed saving for the Community Fund be kept in the budget, but consider the potential to reduce that figure;
35. that £14,130 proposed saving for the Ring and Ride Grants be kept in the budget, but consider the potential to reduce that figure;
36. that £13,360 proposed saving for the Local Enquiry Offices be kept in the budget, but consider the potential to reduce that figure;
37. that £22,000 proposed saving for Corporate Subscriptions be kept in the budget, but consider the potential to reduce that figure;
38. that £59,280 proposed saving for Cemetery Grants be kept in the budget, but consider the potential to reduce that figure;

32 **Draft Service Plans for 2010/2013 and Budget for 2010/2011 (cont.)**

Councillor Jim Knight asked a question regarding the contribution to Seaton's odd job man. He advised Members of the benefit of the continued partnership working with the Town Council and that as a result, maintenance matters were progressed without referral to the Streetscene service for assistance. Members agreed that in principle, the concept should remain but were concerned that bringing this back into the budget would mean that saving would need to be made elsewhere.

RECOMMENDED 39. that contribution to the Seaton "odd job" man (at £6,280 as agreed in 2009/10) be agreed in principle.

Councillor Marion Olive highlighted the difficulties both town and parish councils had been under as a result of receiving information about the proposed savings, after setting their precept. Mark Williams agreed that this could be reviewed, looking to contact the towns and parishes in March to discuss the 2011/12 budget with detail of the medium term financial plan.

33 **CAA Organisational Assessment**

The Chairman reminded Members of their previous meeting where Martin Green discussed the impact of Comprehensive Area Assessment on councils. The report had been published, and Members considered the content of the assessment.

There were mixed opinions between concern on the scoring of 2 out of 4 for all the criteria in the assessment, to comparison with many other authorities who obtained the same or lesser score. Inconsistencies were identified in the report and many Members felt that any failings were already known and being addressed.

The number of corporate priorities, and having achievable targets, was also debated.

*34 **Ward Member role on Development Management**

The Chairman outlined the current inconsistent approach adopted by Ward Members on Development Management Committee when an application in their Ward was being determined. :

- Some Members took the view that they could only act as a Ward Member and therefore did not debate or vote on an application within their ward;
- Other Members gave their view on the application and remained to debate and vote.

There was a mixed response from Members, where some recommended that the status quo be retained with the assumption that Members of the Committee were able to inform the Committee about the application in their Ward, listen to all sides of the debate and take these into account before voting.

Other Members felt that by bringing an application to Committee, there was a strong perception by the public that the Ward Member had already made up their mind on the application, and therefore by voting, could be challenged for pre-determination. Not every ward was represented on the Development Management Committee membership and therefore some felt that the system was unfair to those wards not represented if the status quo was retained.

***34 Ward Member role on Development Management (cont.)**

Andrew Seddon, Senior Solicitor, explained that Members needed to be mindful of the difference between predisposition and predetermination; the main thrust of the available guidance was that Ward Members could still pursue their local constituency role at committee, having properly declared their pre-determined position and observed the guidelines on avoiding accusations of bias . The risk of voting when predetermination had occurred was that a complaint of maladministration might follow, and legal challenge in the event of a perverse decision on the application; but the risk was small and Members were advised to review all guidance available, and follow the good practice set out in the constitution.

The advice on predisposition, predetermination or bias and the code of conduct from the Standards Board had been recently updated from that published in the agenda papers, and would be circulated to all members. The updated advice is available from <http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/Guidance/TheCodeofConduct/Guidance/Topicguides/PredispositionPredeterminationorBias/#d.en.26591>

RESOLVED that no recommendation for change is made to the Development Management Committee at this time, that is, retain the status quo.

***35 East and Mid Devon Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel Update**

The Chairman updated the Committee on the first meeting of the Panel held that morning. The protocol had been agreed in principle but clarity was sought over the issue of the joint arrangements operating as a panel as opposed to a "crime and disorder committee" under the requirements of section 19 of the Police and Justice Act. The Panel would also be reviewing previous minutes and reports of the East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership with a view to developing a work plan.

***36 Update from the Chairman of Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Chubb informed Members of presentations from representatives of the business community. Car parking charges had been raised as an issue for some of the representatives as detailed earlier in these minutes. The meeting had also been an excellent networking opportunity and it was hoped that his Committee would continue to hear debate from the business community as a result.

***37 Update from the Chairman of Service Delivery and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Hall advised Members of better attendance at the Committee and outlined some of the recent topics covered including the parks and gardens survey and improvement measures from the systems thinking reviews.

***38 Update from the Chairman of Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Mrs Parr advised Members of a report on the Affordable Housing Summit that had been presented to her Committee and the progress and actions needed as a result. She also commented on the Rural Manifesto from the Rural Services Network which clearly reflected some of the views of the Council and would feed into the Local Development Framework.

***39 Overview and Scrutiny Committees Forward Plans**

The Chairman advised Members that each Committee had been allocated specific areas of the Corporate Strategy to review for their future work plans.

Councillor Potter requested that there be a review of planning protocol; Councillor Gibbings suggested that looking at the work of the Audit & Governance Committee could be a future topic. Councillor Godbeer stated he would be happy to address the Committee if required on the work of the Licensing Committee. The Chairman noted these requests and would consider, along with the other Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, at their next informal meeting.

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 2 February 2010

Present:

Councillors:

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

Peter Bowden
Iain Chubb
Christine Drew
Chris Gibbings
Roger Giles
Graham Godbeer
David Key

Frances Newth
Marion Olive
Helen Parr
Ken Potter
Graham Troman
Steve Wragg

Officers:

Matt Dickins – Principal Planning Officer
Karime Hassan – Corporate Director
Hannah Jarvis – Assistant Democratic Services Officer
Kate Little – Head of Planning & Countryside Service
John Maidment – Planning Policy Manager
Debbie Meakin – Democratic Services Officer
Mark Williams – Chief Executive

Also Present

Councillors:

Vivienne Ash
Graham Brown
Jill Elson
Malcolm Florey
Mike Green
Stuart Hughes

Douglas Hull
Andrew Moulding
Tony Reed
Philip Skinner
Pauline Stott

Apologies:

David Atkins
Ray Franklin
Steve Hall

Stephanie Jones
Jim Knight
Eileen Wragg

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 8.45pm.

***40 Public question time**

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

*41 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor/ Officer	Agenda Item	Type of interest	Nature of interest
Councillor Bob Peachey	7. Local Development Framework	Personal	Owner of land identified in the preparation of the draft documents of the report
Councillor Andrew Moulding	7. Local Development Framework	Personal	Chairman of Cloakham Lawns Sports Centre; Chairman of Axminster Community Enterprise
Councillor Philip Skinner	7. Local Development Framework	Personal	Part owner of radar station close to potential strategic allocation; family farmed land identified for potential strategic allocation.
Councillor Vivienne Ash	7. Local Development Framework	Personal	Community Centre in Honiton

42 **Local Development Framework (LDF): Progress and key questions**

The Chairman welcomed both the public and Members to the meeting. He outlined why the special meeting had been called, including:

- Looking at the progress of the LDF;
- Identifying any barriers or blockages to the process, including the impact of changing figures in the Regional Spatial Strategy;
- Considering if resources allocated were adequate;
- Looking at the direction of the vision for the District.

The Chairman envisaged that the topic could not be dealt with in one meeting, but would form part of a rolling review on the forward plan of the Committee.

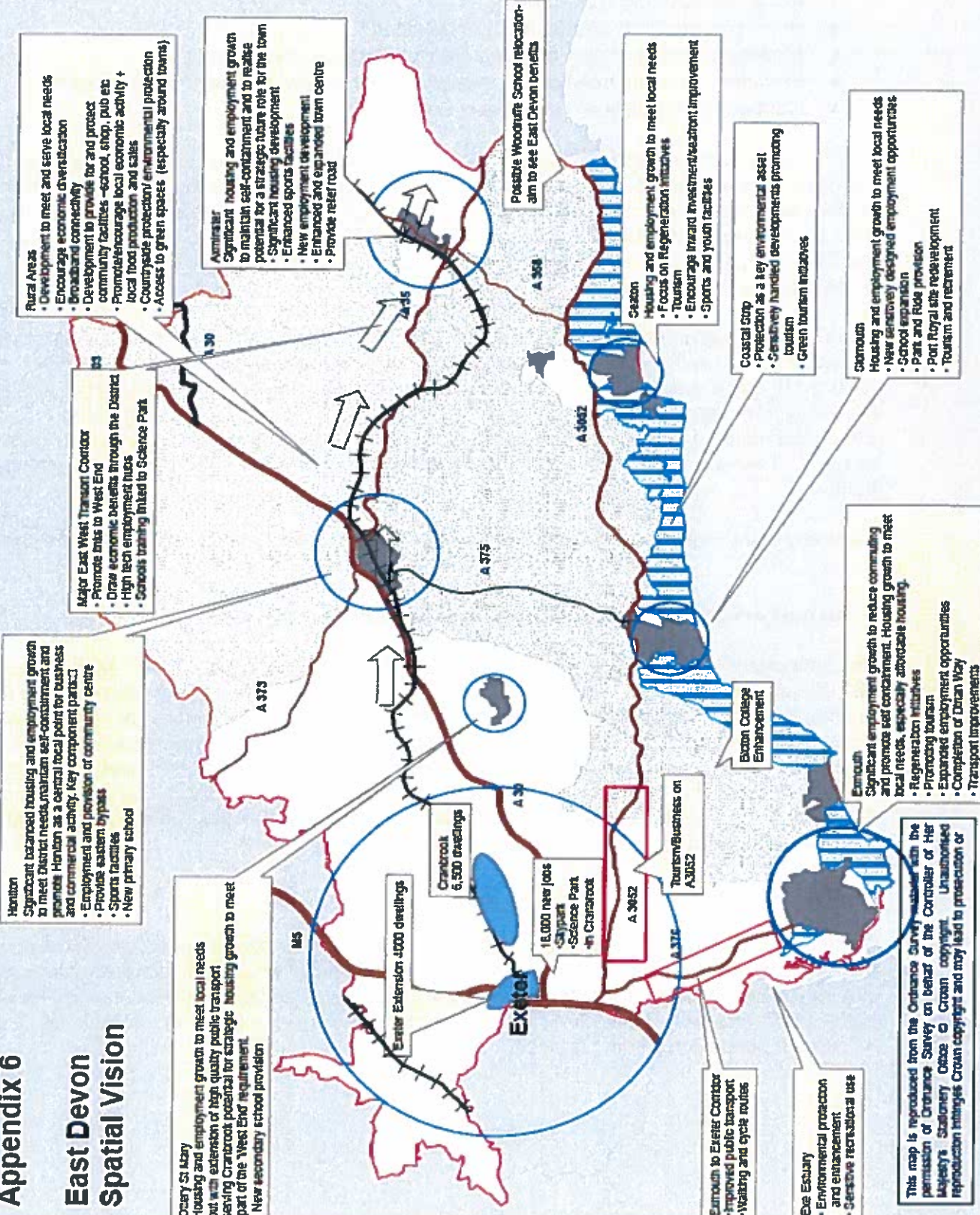
Graham Brown, Chairman of the Local Development Framework Panel, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address Members, for the first time in a public forum, on the progress of the LDF. He outlined the decision of Members to look at development across the District rather than purely at the West End of the District, which had resulted in more work for both the Panel and the officers supporting them. He thanked the team of officers for their hard work, and impressed on Members the importance of getting the developing framework right because of the wide reaching implications that it had on the District.

Members were reminded of the open invitation to attend LDF Panel meetings. There was a request at this point for the time of the meetings to be varied, to enable Members with day commitments to attend.

Karime Hassan proceeded to take Members through a presentation on the vision and the process of research for the LDF.

Appendix 6

East Devon Spatial Vision



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey website with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or

LDF: Progress and key questions (continued)

He began by outlining the emerging spatial vision for the District, including:

- Providing for large scale growth at the West End to meet the sub-regional need;
- Providing quality employment opportunities
- Provision for more balanced communities where housing and jobs were in better alignment;
- Building on investment in knowledge based industries, pulling an innovation agenda along the A30 and A35 corridor;
- Strategic growth at Exmouth and Axminster;
- Modest growth at Ottery St Mary, Honiton, Seaton and Sidmouth;
- Providing innovative solutions to meeting rural housing and employment needs;
- Continuing to safeguard the quality environment.

The Regional Spatial Strategy figures for housing, from the first draft figures to the proposed changes were explained. There was an expectation that authorities would comply with the RSS requirements, which covered and provided specific housing numbers for the Cranbrook new community, and land entitled "Area of Search 4B" on the outskirts of Exeter, and also for the Rest of East Devon. The location of the strategic sites in the West End was also demonstrated to Members with the potential number of jobs they could provide.

The Council's response to the Secretary of State Proposed Changes to the RSS figures was to accept the overall housing figure but reducing the Cranbrook total and dispersing the reduced housing element across the district to meet local needs. Proposing a core strategy that does not meet the specifics of the RSS requirement ran the risk of being found "unsound" under examination unless a robust evidence base was provided to back up the Council's position. The work of the Panel had therefore been concerned with building that evidence base.

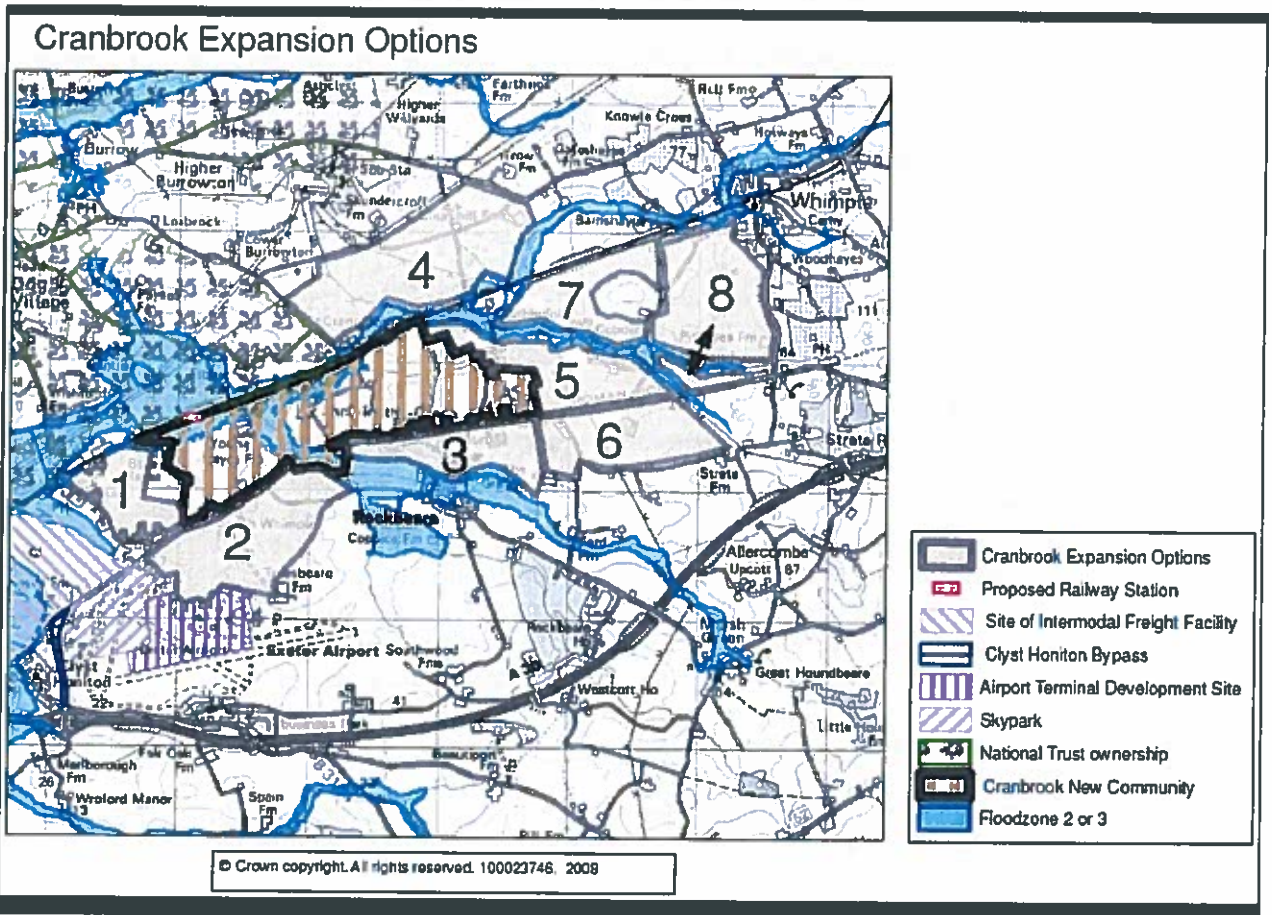
Members were then taken through more specific issues within the emerging spatial vision.

Transport infrastructure requirements for West End

Two potential sites for a second new community had been identified within "Area of Search 4B", Pinhoe, and in the vicinity of the County Showground, needing major road building to provide the necessary access and links to Exeter. Options explored were cost prohibitive to provide the necessary road links for each site but in both cases the internalised commuter trips were analysed to assess the employment opportunities within market towns. Many of the towns are connected to the rail network and improvements to the service could assist those that work within Exeter, but building on the employment opportunities within the towns would mean less demand on the infrastructure to get to the city.

Cranbrook

Members considered the map on the following page, which outlined the options for expanding the new community. Areas marked 1, 5 and 7 would be for residential use; area 2 as a mixed site for residential and employment use; area 3 would provide both residential land and a buffer for Rockbeare. These options would comfortably provide the 6,500 homes the Council felt should be the maximum provided.



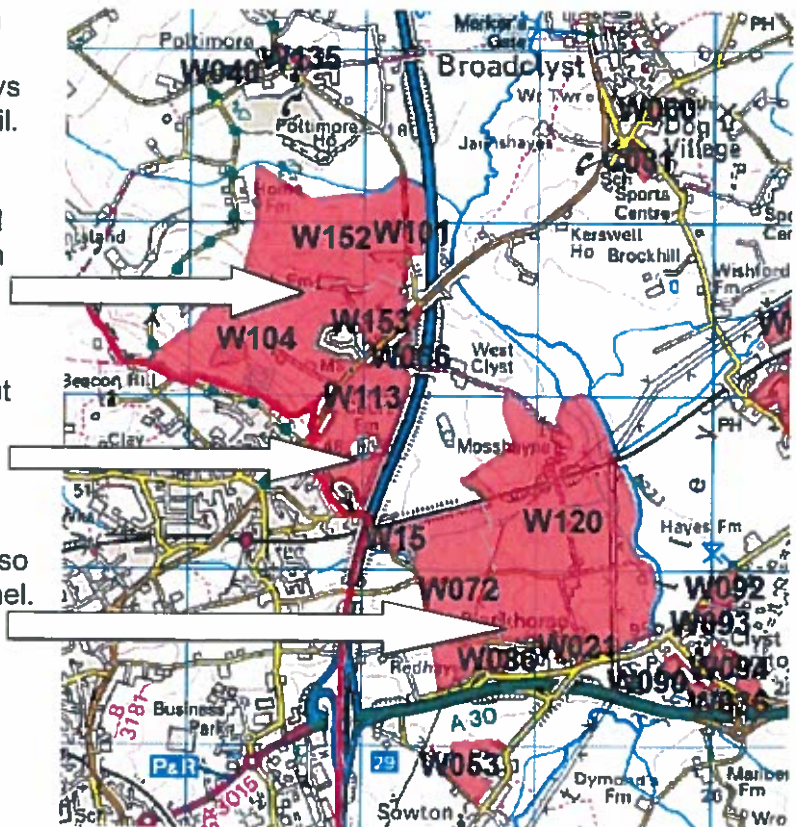
Urban extension at Pinhoe

The proposed urban extension had been modified to a more modest level following highways advice from the County Council.

The LDF Panel had responded positively to the presentation in respect of land at Park Farm.

Pinn Court Farm had merits but here was concern about the impact of motorway noise.

Proposals for Redhayes as a strategic growth option were also favourable received by the Panel.



42 **LDF: Progress and key questions (continued)**

Combining the number of dwellings from Cranbrook (6,500), Pinhoe (800), Redhayes (2,200) left a shortfall of 2,000 dwellings from the RSS requirement of 11,500 dwellings.

Scale of growth across the remainder of East Devon

Members were shown population projections for the District and how these impacted on requirement for:

- Education – school places;
- Health and Social Care – GP provision, dentists, supported housing vacancies;
- Sport and Leisure facilities;
- Library space;
- Open space and recreation – playing pitches, allotments.

Using Exmouth as an example, Karime Hassan took Members through the model produced for calculating the impact on the social infrastructure. In Exmouth, the population was predicted as getting older. If this trend continued for the next twenty years, despite additional housing built, there would be a decrease in population overall and a decrease in the economically active part of the population. Members needed to be aware of these social implications for all of the District, to consider how to address future social issues.

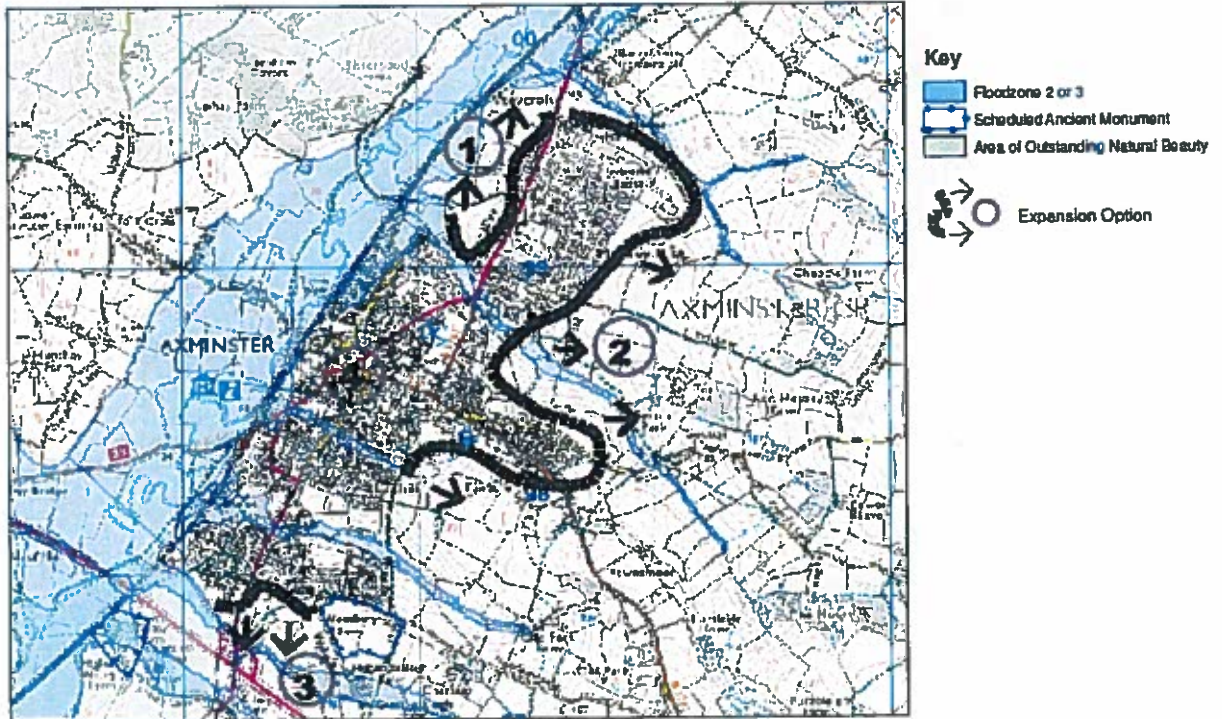
Emerging vision for towns

Karime Hassan presented to Members information on the main towns with the emerging vision for growth and the impact on the social infrastructure predicted as a result.

Emerging vision for towns – Axminster

Members were reminded of the historical view that Axminster would take considerable growth for the District alongside Cranbrook. Response to the Issues and Options report indicated that modest growth was preferred (option 1 on the map below) at around 400 homes along with a relief road and more employment opportunities. Delivering road improvements rather than a relief road would be dependent on the level of housing that could be delivered, and what the private sector could afford to contribute to that large cost. Provision for another primary school would also need to be explored for that level of growth. In the testing done by the LDF Panel, two sites were identified for growth.

Axminster Town Expansion Options

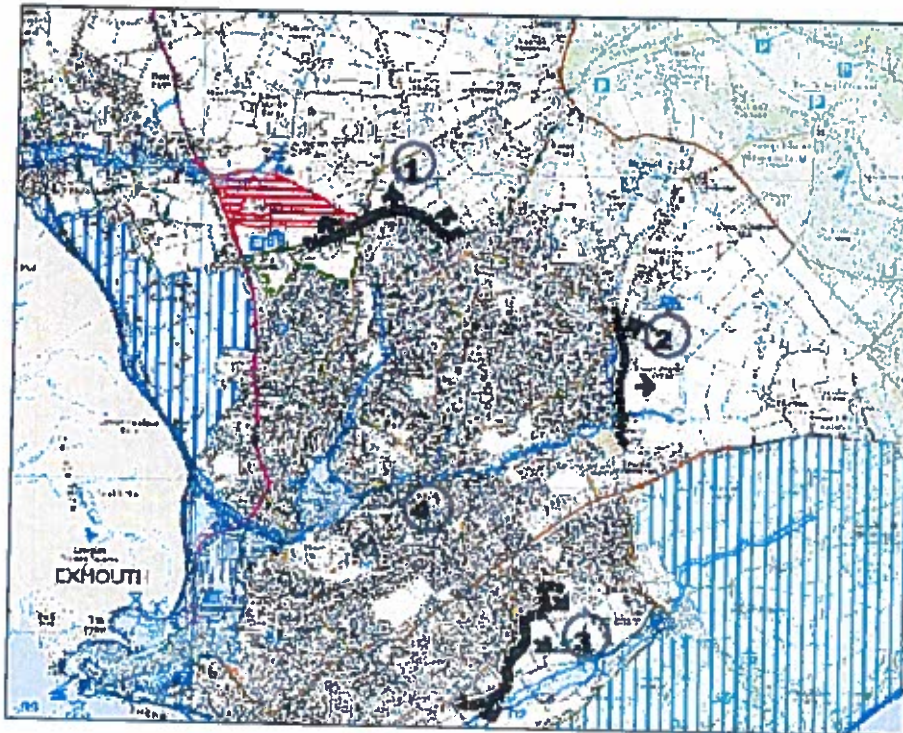


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Emerging vision for towns – Exmouth

Public preference was for growth within the town and some expansion at option 3 on the map below. The abandoned 1988 proposals for the relief of the A376 would at todays process cost around £100million for the scheme. Traffic levels had not significantly altered since 2003 whereas the number of people using the train to travel into the city had increased. Options such as a second railway station at the north of the town should therefore be considered.

Exmouth Town Expansion Options



Key

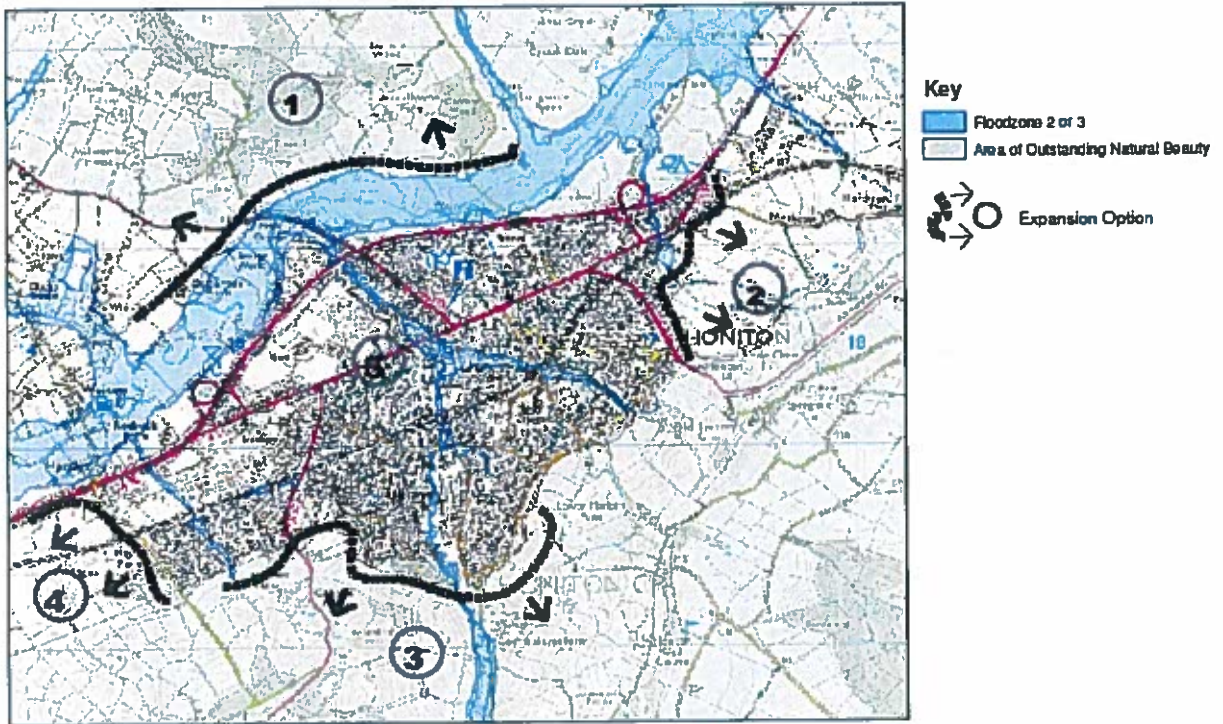
-  Floodzone 2 or 3
-  Dinan Way Safeguarding Area
-  Historic Park or Garden
-  Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Coastal Preservation Area
-  Expansion Option

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Emerging vision for towns – Honiton

A high level of housing (around 1,000 dwellings) was favoured from the issues and options responses, with expansion in areas 2 and then 4 on the map below. There was also a desire for retailing of bulky goods. The Panel considered the growth alongside the desire for an eastern bypass which would cost in the region of £100 - £150 million; therefore more modest growth was considered reasonable for the town.

Honiton Town Expansion Options

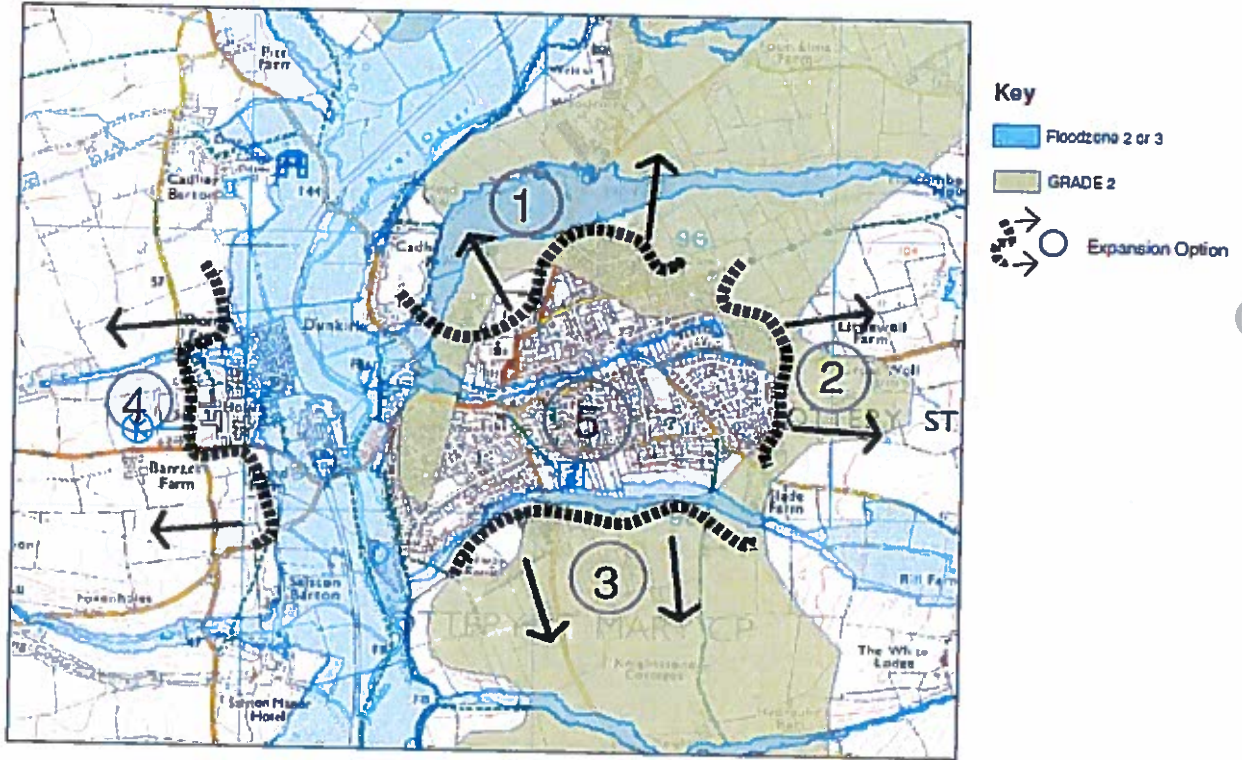


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Emerging vision for towns – Ottery St Mary

Response to the issues and options report had shown a preference for a low level of growth relating to area marked 4 in the map below. There was also a desire for employment growth on brownfield sites. The Panel suggested modest growth was appropriate and exploring education options was needed. Members were also asked to bear in mind the close relationship geographically to the West End, where a high quality transport link from the city to Cranbrook has the potential to be extended out to Ottery St Mary.

Ottery St Mary Town Expansion Options

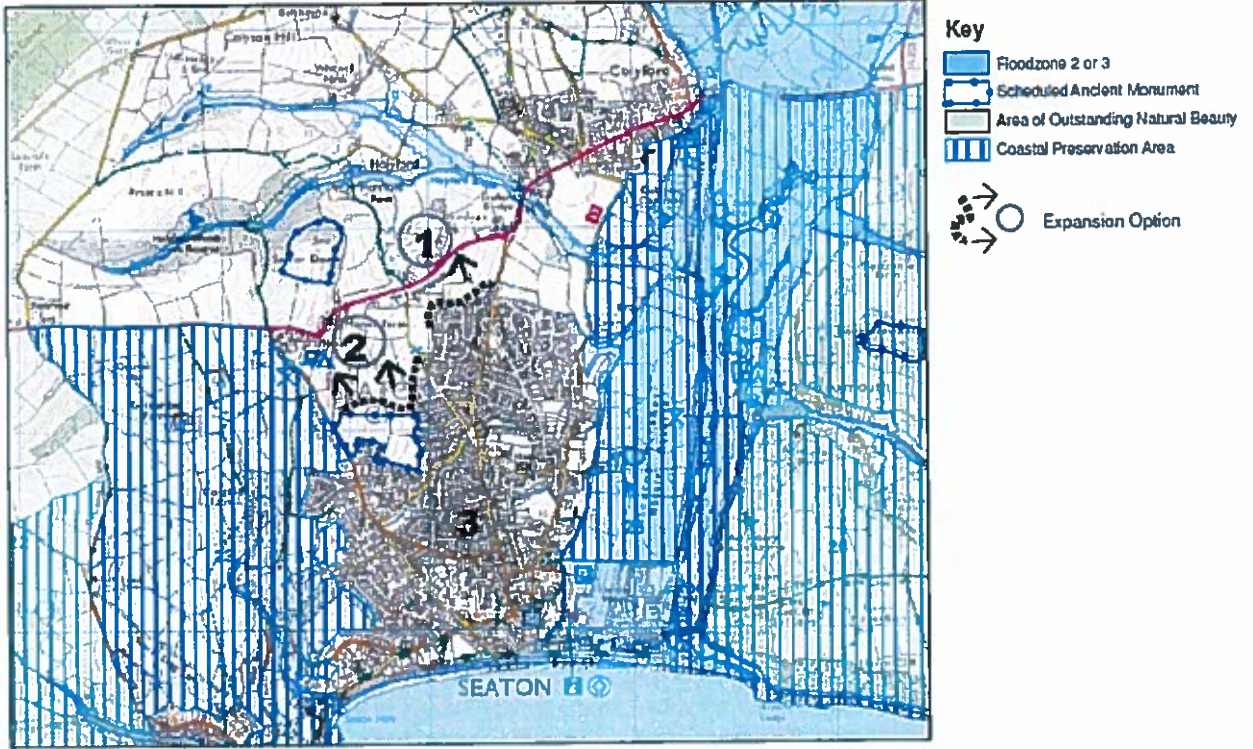


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Emerging vision for towns – Seaton

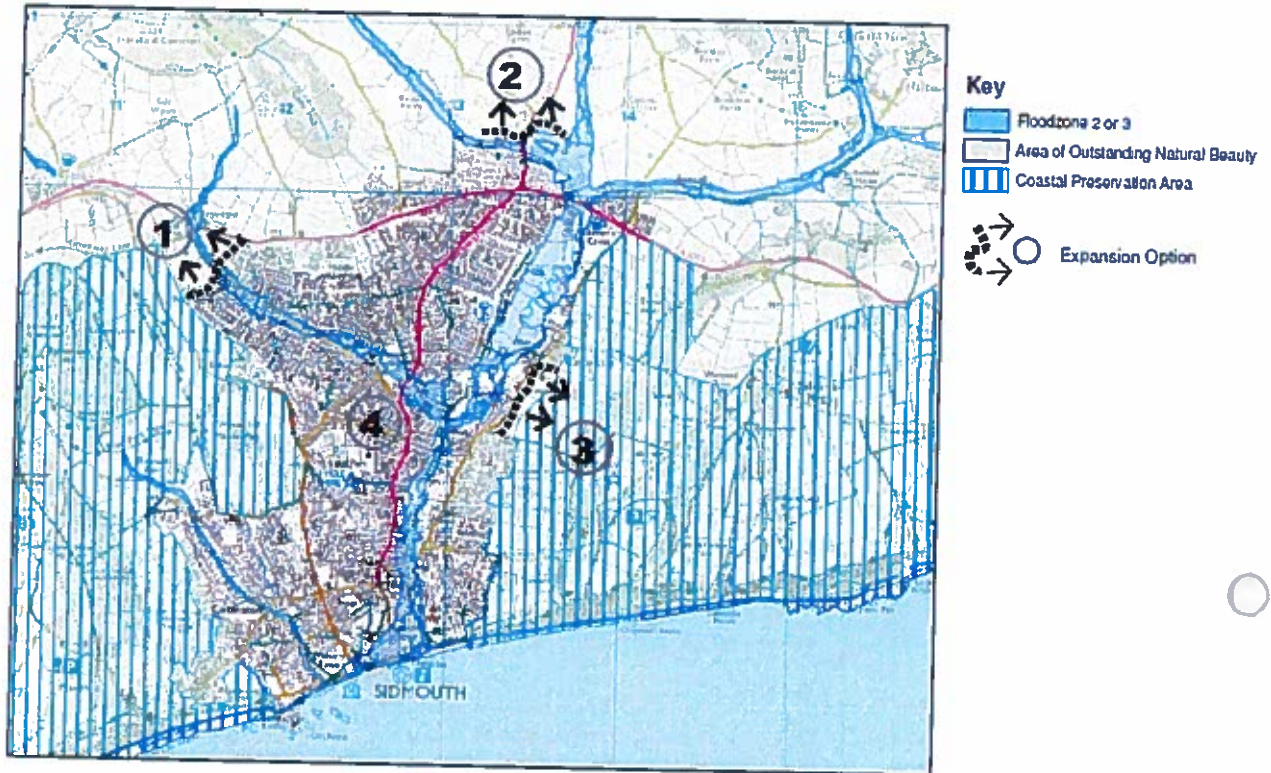
Development within the town was favoured in the responses to date, with some expansion into area 1 on the map on the following page. The vision for Seaton also covered a focus on the regeneration initiatives, tourism provision and leisure and youth facilities, which could possibly be addressed without major strategic changes.

Seaton Town Expansion Options



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Sidmouth Town Expansion Options



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Option 4 of development within the town, followed by option 1 for expansion was preferred to date. Overall modest growth was supported. Prospective sites for locating a park and ride facility had also been debated recently by the LDF Panel.

Rural Communities

Issues for consideration for rural communities covered:

- Economic diversification;
- Broadband connectivity for helping businesses based in homes;
- Provide for and protect community facilities;
- Environmental protection.

Next steps

Members were asked to be mindful of what level of growth they felt was right for the district, balanced with the need to meet the objective of providing affordable housing. Further consultation on the options available was being planned and Members had a key role in helping the public to understand the implications of those options.

Members questions

Members sought to clarify some aspects of the presentation, including:

- What were the consequences of not complying with the RSS? The core strategy, if not found sound, would have to be undertaken again, resulting in considerable additional cost;
- When would final figures on the number of dwellings be released for the RSS? The Government Office for the South West had advised that the additional appraisal work should be complete in March but there may then be a need for further consultation;
- Was there any penalty for overprovision of housing? There was no penalty, but there needed to be a balance with the environment to resist challenges on the grounds that the development adversely impacted on the environment. Any overprovision would have to be justified so as to convince the Inspector the plan was "sound";
- Had windfalls of housing been taken into account? Sites had to be allocated and therefore whilst windfalls were a bonus, they could not be relied on in any way and therefore not taken into account in the baseline figures used;
- How much weight was given to the Issues and Options Report responses where some response numbers were low? The report was generic in nature and therefore attracted a lower level of comment. At the next stage of consultation, where tangible options would be presented on specific areas, it was expected that the responses would increase;
- Had advice from the Planning Advisory Service been taken on board following their diagnostic report? Yes, the Panel had become more aware of the need for community engagement as a result, and were taking the advice into consideration

Members also offered ideas on the next steps of the LDF process, including:

- Consulting on a learning communities area basis to draw together villages and smaller communities that go into a town for education;
- Look to providing homes to retain young people in the area they grew up in;
- A rolling programme of review by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to help assist the work of the LDF Panel in monitoring the 15 year supply of housing land;
- Addition of the Axe Wetlands project to the spatial vision as it was felt this was a key area of both conservation and potential tourism that should be highlighted;
- Reviewing railway links for the benefit of the District. Karime Hassan advised that there was dialogue with the County Council on their next local transport plan;
- Recognition that the District is a good place to live and a balance needed to be kept between development and the existing environment;
- Working with rural communities to achieve a balance between providing family homes and support facilities whilst keeping the attraction of village life;
- Bringing the spatial vision to full Council to obtain approval and ownership from all Members of the Council, in order that all Members are aware and prepared to assist the public in the next round of consultation

In response to a question about finding investment, Members were advised that the Homes and Communities Agency had moved away from providing grants and now made investment decision with a view to making a return. The Panel would be considering every major infrastructure item with a view to securing funds via a community infrastructure levy or other developer contribution.

Team resources

Members raised concern on the issue of resourcing the continuing work of the LDF and the volume of work in both communicating the next round of consultation, as well as analysing the results to feed into the core strategy. Recent changes in management structure had resulted in a forthcoming change in resourcing the planning policy team to draw on resources from the Development Management team to assist with the work. A communications strategy was also being drawn up with the assistance of the Funding and Engagement Officer to ensure that the most effective means of consultation was put into place.

- RECOMMENDED**
1. that the response to the LDF Issues and Options Report Consultation be noted and together with the Sustainability Analysis work, the analysis be used to inform the production of the preferred options stage of the Core Strategy;
 2. that the progress made on the production of the Core Strategy be noted and congratulations offered to the officers and Members involved for the work achieved so far;
 3. that, subject to the approval of the Development Management Committee, further consultations be carried out with statutory bodies and agencies in respect of those potential strategic site allocations that the LDF Panel felt merited further study to enable the Council to make informed decisions about these at the preferred options stage;
 4. that the Management Team be asked to support the arrangements for the line reporting of the Planning Policy team to Karime Hassan, and the allocation of sufficient resource from the Development Management Team to assist the timely completion of the LDF process;
 5. that the presentation on the spatial vision and the emerging vision for the towns and rural communities be presented to Full Council for all Members to consider for adoption.

- RESOLVED**
6. that the key issues highlighted in the report be considered at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.
 7. that a communications strategy for the next consultation round on the Core Strategy be considered at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Consultation Arrangements for Core Strategy – Up To May 2010

Paper by Claire Rodway

Introduction

- 1.0 On 11th February 2010 the Local Development Framework Panel discussed the ongoing consultation and engagement with the wider community and specific sectors/interests (for example the tourism sector, business interests or environmental interests) which is a fundamental requirement of the production of the Core Strategy (and all LDF plans).
- 1.1 Initial consultation will need to be quite focussed to ensure that responses are relevant and appropriate and will be genuinely useful in informing the production of the Core Strategy. For this reason it was considered that this stage should centre around elected Councillors (both at Parish and Ward level) and representatives of recognised local amenity/residents/interest groups.
- 1.2 A debate took place at two LDF Panel meetings which highlighted the merits of two alternative approaches:
- (1) Consulting towns and surrounding villages together.
 - (2) Having town and village/rural events as separate entities.
- 1.3 It was decided that the second approach should be followed due to concerns that:
- The scale of any future development and associated employment etc. infrastructure is very different for towns and villages
 - The relationship between towns and the parishes which they serve is far more complex than mere proximity and different towns may well fulfil different functions for each Parish; Choice, transport, location of employment etc will all influence dependence patterns and these are issues distinct to each Parish
 - Rural views and priorities may be smothered by the town/urban agenda
 - Sheer numbers of attendees may make the workshops unmanageable if all adjoining Parishes are represented, and may prevent any other interest groups attending. For example Honiton has 9 abutting or nearly abutting Parishes and if all sent two delegates then, with the Town Council and Ward Members, optimum workshop numbers would already be exceeded before any other bodies are invited.
- 1.4 Notwithstanding this, it is entirely relevant and appropriate to construct policy on the basis of recognising and planning for the inter-relationship of towns and surrounding hinterlands and catchments. There may be an opportunity to tailor a future LDF (or LSP other process/work area) around this issue.

Consultation events

- 2.0 It was agreed that during March 2010 the Planning Policy Section will hold one day (afternoon into early evening) workshops in the main towns of East Devon; Axminster, Exmouth (see comments below), Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Sidmouth and Seaton. Events will also be held in six rural villages (to which all Parishes will be invited) to test and refine emerging policy options and proposals. At the same time, consultation will be undertaken with hard to reach and minority groups through face-to-face meetings, surveys, telephone discussions, forums etc to ensure that their views are fairly represented and to ensure that the requirements of the Equality Bill are met.
- 2.1 The Communications and Funding Officer will be coordinating this tranche of engagement work with Policy Officers leading the sessions.

Town Workshops

- 3.0 Approximately 40 people will be invited to each session, including the Town Council, Ward Members and local interest groups (including business, amenity, local interest etc)..
- 3.1 In the case of Exmouth, LDA Consultants have been commissioned to produce a Development Brief for Exmouth Town Centre, and a visioning exercise will form a fundamental component of this. As the timescale for this consultation dovetails with the LDF workshops, and there is also a town plan group undertaking work there is scope to combine events saving resources and avoiding consultation fatigue. Work on co-ordinating engagement is ongoing.
- 3.2 The Agenda has yet to be finalised but is planned to run as follows:

Welcome and Introduction by the Corporate Director/officers:

Session 1 - Visioning

This session will briefly introduce the Local Development Framework and explain

- the role of consultation in shaping the Core Strategy
- the RSS requirements and the likely scale and location of future growth
- LDF Panel emerging thinking
- A brief overview of each settlement based on information held by the EDDC
- Community Aspirations - Based on existing work eg Community Plans, responses to Issues and Options Report etc
- Questions and other issues

Session 2 – Workshops (based on a Speed-dating format)

Attendees will break into 5 themed groups dependent upon their particular interests. Groups are likely to be:

- Community (including needs of different age groups, health, education, police etc)
- Economy
- Environment (including landscape/streetscene/countryside/playing fields)
- Housing
- Transport

Groups will discuss the important aspects of each theme and, on a map base, will produce a record of constraints and opportunities to inform the subsequent session.

Groups will then move onto the next theme.

Refreshments- During which results of Sessions 1 & 2 will be collated for Session 3.

Session 3 – Future Development Workshops

Map based exercise in which smaller groups (approx 4 people each) will discuss the implications of different scales of growth. Each group will illustrate the preferred location of different scales of residential development and the associated employment and infrastructure which it will require. This will build on the information provided in the previous sessions.

Reconvene for discussion and closing summary

Close and issue feedback forms

Village Workshops

- 4.0 These evening meetings will be located in six halls, spread across the District, with all Parish Councils and their Ward Members invited to attend. Unlike the Town consultations, which are self-contained and are intended to produce conclusions 'on the day', the Parish sessions are intended to inform Parish Councils about the LDF and provide guidance so that, as a whole Council, they can consider the issues raised formally and provide the District Council with written observations. This will give Parish Councils the opportunity to involve relevant local organisations, draw on information from their residents.

- 4.1 Each meeting will commence with a short introductory session to explain:
- the role of consultation in shaping the Core Strategy
 - the RSS requirements and the likely scale and location of future growth
 - Restrictions on rural development
 - LDF Panel emerging thinking
- 4.2 This will lead into an overview of the information the Policy Section holds on each Parish and the way in which existing information, such as Parish Plans, Housing Needs Assessments, appraisals or similar inform and underpin the LDF rural areas evidence base. Parish Councillors will be asked to identify and provide copies of any recent local research that applies to their community to ensure that the evidence base is as comprehensive as possible.
- 4.3 In a round table discussion, Parish Councillors will be asked to consider the issues and the future of their parishes/towns/villages, including what future development should be permitted and what benefits development could help provide. It is hoped that this will be a lively and informative debate which will enable attendees to really analyse the elements which make for high quality future development and will enable them to guide and inform their own responses to the LDF consultation. Parish Councils have already been asked to include an item on their April Agenda entitled "Informing the Local Development Framework" so that the issues raised in this discussion can be debated by the whole Parish/Town Council with a view to submitting a written response in a standardised format to the Policy Section by the end of April.
- 4.4 There will then be a presentation on Section 106 contributions and associated discussion, before the meeting is brought to a close.
- 4.5 Care will be taken to ensure that attendees are not given unrealistic expectations of the benefits that new development may bring, in the form of developer contributions, and are not led to believe that all of their comments will be incorporated into the Core Strategy, but will be retained and used to inform other LDF work as appropriate. It is intended that feedback will be provided after the meetings and attendees will be kept informed at each stage of the LDF process and invited to participate in further engagement as appropriate.

Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees 2009/10

May 2009 brought a change of committee structure, replacing the Scrutiny and Corporate Overview Committees with four new Committees covering both the elements of scrutiny and the overview of future policy.

The broad remits of the four Committees are:

Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating

- 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.

Communities Overview & Scrutiny

- Affordable housing, housing availability;
- Urban, rural and Safe Communities;
- Developing, reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of the Council's work on equality and diversity;
- Developing and implementing the community empowerment visions;
- Scrutinise community engagement and empowerment initiatives and governance arrangements, with input from communities to drive improvement.

Economy Overview & Scrutiny

- Recession recovery;
- Town services and High street future;
- Skills and training;
- School provision for leavers and achievers; further education provision;
- Property based decisions;
- Local government association issues.

Service Delivery and Performance Overview & Scrutiny

- Focus on the right sized establishment;
- Monitoring progress of systems thinking reviews;
- Monitor on-target delivery

Each Committee has worked hard to encourage full participation with the new arrangements, establishing strong links with both Portfolio Holders and Member Champions. Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of each committee also meet informally on a regular basis to debate issues, progress and assessing the workload of each Committee.

Local Development Framework

Member concern about LDF progress prompted a review by the Co-ordinating Committee. As a result, there is now a better understanding of the work of the LDF Panel, the vision for the District and the work needed to reach the goal of a core strategy that will meet inspection but crucially meet the needs of the District.

Comprehensive Area Assessment

Securing a positive assessment for future years has promoted related work with all the Committees in looking at the key strategies and documents used by the Audit Commission to assess the Council's progress. This work will continue for the next civic cycle, working as closely with the Lead Auditor, Martin Green, as possible to pinpoint the evidence needed to provide to future assessments. There will be particular focus on the Local Area Agreement in the coming months. The results from the Place Survey will also drive some work for all of the Committees in the next civic cycle.

Crime and Disorder

Joint arrangements to run alongside the existing Community Safety Partnership (CSP) have been put in place, to monitor the work of the CSP by both East Devon District Councillors and Mid Devon District Councillors. This is in the form of the East and Mid Devon Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel, who will meet at least twice a year, and feedback to the Co-ordinating Committee.

Affordable Housing

Identified as an area needing attention in the Comprehensive Area Assessment, the Communities Committee considered an interim policy for delivering more affordable housing, and other measures to help bring more affordable units forward. The policy was recommended to the Development Management Committee who subsequently agreed to put it in place.

Rural Business Survey

Survey results confirmed the view that training opportunities for small rural businesses were few, and Members debated how improvements could be made to offer better opportunities, including what could be offered from the District Council.

Better links with Business Representatives

Representatives from business groups and Chambers of Commerce were invited to present their issues of concern to the Economy Committee. Issues such as car parking charges and the level of business rates were hot topics for many of the areas represented.

Systems Thinking

Performance Measures Reports resulting from the systems thinking reviews are regularly considered by the Service Delivery & Performance Committee. Each of the services involved so far; Development Management, Housing Benefits and Housing have changed the way they work and continually monitor their performance, comparing it against the previous quarter's data. In the past year each of the three service areas have enjoyed considerable improvement. Preventable demand in the Customer Service Centre is also regularly monitored, particularly in respect of the waste handling contract roll-out.

Quarterly Monitoring

Improvements have been made to the presentation of the information on monitoring, in conjunction with Members, to provide reports that make problems quickly identifiable and actions to rectify made clear.

Other work by the Committees during the year has included:

- Business Tenants Survey, looking at ways of addressing the need for small and medium sized units;
- Review of Health & Health Equality policy, with principles agreed relating to the Council's role to play in health; The Communities Committee was consulted on the "New Horizons" document by the Department of Health on the future approach to mental health, hearing debate from the NHS Partnership Trust. Aspirations of the Council's role in mental health awareness were debated and subsequently taken on as the Council's agreed position;
- Charging for pre-application advice and the level of charges against the type of application. The Executive Board recognised that charging would help to find improvements to the service and recommended a charging regime;
- Taking a first look at Asset Management, with a view to future monitoring of the Asset Management Plan in future months. A new Member Champion for Asset Management was agreed at full Council as recommended by the Co-ordinating Committee;
- Reviewing the Licensing Policy;
- Rural Manifesto debate to establish the Council's position in order to inform both the LDF and the Council's core aspirations for Rural Communities;
- Debate on the Government consultation paper on Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 4: Planning for Prosperous Economies;

- Review of the East Devon Business Centre and exploring links with the Exeter Science Park, which will continue in the next civic year;
- Monitoring delivery of the Economy and Development Service Plan, with focus on how to secure funding for the New Growth Point Delivery Team;
- Reviewing actions taken as detailed in the Children's Play Strategy, looking at facilities across the District and how to assess their worth to young people, as well as how to better promote them;
- Receiving presentations from Member Champions through the year has resulted in a better understanding of their role, with suggestions on their future direction and raising their profile;
- Supporting the move towards a town centre manager for Seaton

In summary, the Committees have responded well to the challenge of a new remit and are in a strong position to continue the work needed to monitor delivery against the Council's corporate priorities.

Forward Plan for Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Month	Topic	Lead
30 June 2010	LSP and LAA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examining the relationship between the two• Anti-social behaviour measures	Peter Jeffs
22 September 2010		
17 November 2010		
26 January 2011	Service Planning & Budgets	Diccon Pearse
9 March 2011	Review of the Year	





