



Devon Rural Network – Delivery Plan 2007

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Working to deliver the Devon Rural Strategy 2007 onwards

Devon Strategic Partnership



The Devon Rural Network – working to deliver the Devon Rural Strategy 2007

The structure of the delivery plan (formally known as the DRN Action Programme) is separated into 2 main sections, one is the plan for the DRN staff to act on, and one is for the DRN as a whole to act on (this is still co-ordinated by the DRN staff).

The four main roles for the DRN, staff and network as a whole, are as follows:

1. *DRN Development and Provision of Information:* the basic core functions of the network such as: providing information to members; securing resources and funding; marketing the DRN to increase awareness about what it does and how it can help; and putting in place essential documentation to guide the way it operates.
2. *Supporting Partnership Action and Communication:* This is concerning facilitating partnership working within Rural Devon organisations, reducing duplication and confusion and producing guides to good practice where there are gaps in information. The key to this is making sure that lines of communication between organisations and individuals within the network are open and used regularly – so that information flows from grass roots up and strategic level down, and in from and out to members own networks
3. *Speaking with a united voice for Rural Devon:* Drawing out members views and articulating the consensus clearly and concisely in order to carry more weight responding to national and regional policy, strategy and programmes. Providing a lobbying role to make Devon rural views and needs known outside Devon.
4. *Facilitating Strategic Delivery:* Maximising the opportunities for Rural Devon and making sure that policy, strategy and initiatives which affect the county are 'rural proofed', that is to say that they do not have an adverse effect on rural areas. It is also concerning implementing action plans and strategies which stem from and relate to the DRN, such as this delivery plan, the South West Farming and Food Strategy and the new emerging Devon Economic Strategy. By doing the utmost through facilitation, lobbying and some strategic delivery where appropriate, this ensures that the resources area in place to enable quality regeneration projects to happen.

Context

The 'Devon Rural Strategy 2007' has appendices including the Rural Devon Profile, an evidence base of issues and opportunities which impact on Rural Devon. The aim is not to duplicate that information in this delivery plan, but help to achieve the priorities via facilitation.

Since the original 2003 Devon Rural Strategy and 2004 DRN Action programme were produced there have been a number of significant developments which affect the provision and approach of the DRN as explained below:

Rural Renaissance

Devon now has a Rural Renaissance programme covering the whole of Devon run by Devon Renaissance who fund a number of projects across rural Devon. For example the Sustainable Economies for Rural Communities fund (SERC) which is worth £2 million. This is split in to 3 themes – Sustainable Farming and Food (across the whole of Devon), Sustainable Tourism (across the whole of Devon) and Rural Business Support (across non objective 2 areas).

Devon Strategic Partnership and the Sustainable Communities Strategy

The Sustainable Communities Strategy is currently being developed and will link closely with the Devon Rural Strategy 2007. There will be an opportunity for the DRN to Rural Proof and comment during the consultation period.

Devon Towns Forum

The DTF established in 2005 built on the work of the Devon Chairs Forum introduced in 2002 to support predominantly MCTi Community Partnerships. The forum now support all partnerships working at the market Town Level and works closely with the DRN especially with events and has membership on the Management Advisory Group (MAG) and Policy Steering Group (PSG) the DRN CRAG and VCS Action Groups. The key objectives of the DTF are:

1. To provide an inclusive forum for towns and their hinterlands undertaking community planning exercises.
2. To provide opportunities for towns and their hinterlands to exchange information.
3. To provide supportive events such as training, seminars and conferencing.
4. To offer a representative voice for advice, guidance and sign posting where appropriate.
5. To identify issues common to communities undertaking community planning exercises to share and promote learning.
6. To develop the capacity of the forum and its members to support the process of regeneration.
7. To support co-ordinated approaches to projects or project funding where there is opportunity to achieve an economic or strategic advantage.

Devon Economic Partnership

The Devon Economic Partnership (DEP) established itself during 2006 to:

- To identify the key economic development and regeneration priorities and activities for Devon, using a comprehensive, sound evidence base

- To ensure effective and efficient delivery of activities by organisations and partnerships, against identified priorities, at the most appropriate level depending on the activity required, to the principle of subsidiarity
- To provide leadership and enable Devon to speak with one voice on key economic issues.

Membership of the Devon Economic Partnership includes local authorities, economic and business partnerships, private, voluntary and environment sectors, Devon Strategic Partnership Economic and Environment Champions, Learning and Skills Council, JobCentre Plus, Business Link, SWRDA and GOSW.

The DEP leads on the development of the Economy and Enterprise block of the Devon Local Area Agreement (LAA) and is developing the Devon Economic Strategy, which will also provide the economic content of the Devon Sustainable Community Strategy to be developed during 2007 and the revised Devon LAA for 2008-11.

There is some overlap between the 2 partnerships and the emerging Economic Strategy. This will help the partnerships to support one another. The DRN are responsible for facilitating delivery of one of the outcomes in the Economic block 4: Developing the Rural Economy.

Rural Development Programme for England

The next Rural Development Programme for England will run from 2007 to 2013. The Rural Development Programme is jointly funded by the EU, through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the Government. In England, DEFRA also plan to make use of Voluntary Modulation.

The EU Rural Development Regulation forms the 2nd pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy. DEFRA will use the next Programme to safeguard and enhance the rural environment (with Environmental Stewardship at the heart of the Programme) and to foster competitive and sustainable businesses and thriving rural communities.

The amount of money available in each Axis will have a dramatic effect on Rural Devon and actions will need to be taken to make best use of resources available

Delivery Plan for DRN Staff (specific activity)

Role	Priority for Delivery	Current Activities	Target Action	Timescale
Provision of information	Market and publicise the benefits of the DRN, its work, its aims, activities and events and those of its members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly newsletter produced – Devon Rural Voice • DRN A1 size information boards • Website www.drn.org.uk • 2 events per year +AGM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to have a comprehensive newsletter, accessed via the website • Reproduce A1 boards, leaflets and business cards with up to date information and contact details • Improve system for uploading info on to website • Web survey to ascertain usefulness of website and where appropriate where improvements can be made • AGM, summer event and winter event to be delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium • Completed • Medium • Medium • Long
	Provide support for the DRN action groups and liaise with existing groups or set up new groups as necessary, in order to deliver the objectives of the strategy and this delivery plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSG meetings quarterly • MAG to advise PSG and support Co-ordinator • 6 action groups in existence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue quarterly PSG meetings or arrange as necessary • Review each action group, produce a short paper on role and development of action group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long • Medium

Supporting partnership action and communication	Promote better understanding and co-operation between communities in rural and urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the work of the DTF specifically in community planning • DRN events open to all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • run approx 3-4 events that jointly support the work of the DRN/DTF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium
Facilitating Strategic Delivery	Develop the targets and activities under the rural strand of the Environment as an Economic Drivers section of the Economic block for the Devon LAA based on priorities identified in the Devon Rural Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide short reports to the DEP on the DRN progression with the identified outcome for the LAA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify measurable targets to include in the refresh of the Devon LAA taking place in March 2008 • work closely with the Devon Economic Partnership to achieve common priorities and goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium • Medium
	Management, monitoring and facilitation of the DEFRA Rural Social & Community Programme in Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Year 1 monitoring, supplied DEFRA and GOSW with reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the 14 projects are all working towards their milestones and that reporting is done in time and with enough notice • Build evidence base to justify need for similar funding as RSCP fund due to end March 2008 which will be detrimental to all of the projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium • Medium

Delivery plan for DRN (supported by DRN staff)

Role	Priority for Delivery	Current Activities	Target Action	Timescale
Speaking with a united voice for	Make joint responses as a network to policy and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Proofing criteria developed and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of rural proofing criteria to be more 'user friendly' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completed

Rural Devon	consultations and make representation on issues which could have an adverse or positive impact on rural Devon	<p>consultation response action group concentrating on this area of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forge links with other rural Counties and areas which are developing similar partnerships both regionally and nationally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations and policies continue to be proofed by CRAG • Devon is a partner in the Interreg IIC Rural Innova project. DRN has been the representative at 3 conferences. This project is coming to an end so future activity needs to be considered • Develop relationships with Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset to share best practise and be representative of the Rural South West as well as Rural Devon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long • Medium • Medium
Facilitating Strategic Delivery	The DRN continues to be the Devon sub regional source of partnership policy for rural delivery of funding and regeneration services in Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with DR sitting on various groups and providing policy guidance where necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue close links with the Devon Renaissance Partnership, potential LAG areas for delivery of RDPE, LAA, SWCORE. SWRDA, GOSW and other relevant networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium
	Ensure that this document is agreed by the DRN members and implemented in partnership with them, and in line with other strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshed Devon Rural Strategy published March 2007 • Devon Sustainable Communities Strategy being developed • Devon Economic Partnership developing the Devon Economic Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate delivery of the Devon Rural Strategy through potential partners and action groups. Ensure monitoring and evaluation is up to date and transparent (NB. DRN staff) • Ensure that the DRN feed in to new strategy and Rural Proof the document when consultation opens • Be represented on and work closely with the DEP and the development of the Economic Strategy to compliment each partnership's work and priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium • Medium • Long

	Facilitate, support and develop integrated and accessible funding programmes and delivery partnerships to resource regeneration initiatives, including Devon wide access to RR for rural regeneration and other projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to DCC Regeneration and Resources Action Programme • DRN is represented on the DR board, Working Group and Project Group • SERC outputs have been identified from SFFAG, STAG and RBSAG for SERC programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New representative from PSG needed on DR Board • Ensure the views of the DRN are listened to and acted upon in the Working Group and Project Group meetings • Ensure that the projects coming through SERC are fit for purpose and have a strategic link with DCC and other organisations policies as well as the Rural Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completed • Medium • Medium
	Consider funding options for the future of the DRN and how the network will function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion have begun at PSG and MAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider options for future, undertake an options appraisal • Investigate possible funding sources to bid for • Review activities undertaken and joint working, benefits to members and partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium • Medium • medium

Note on timescales:

Short = by July 2007
Medium = by March 2008
Long = by March 2009

Glossary of Acronyms:

CCD Community Council of Devon

CRAG Consultation Response Action Group

DCC	Devon County Council
DEP	Devon Economic Partnership
DNP	Dartmoor National Park Authority
DSP	Devon Strategic Partnership
DR	Devon Renaissance
DRN	Devon Rural Network
DRS for 2007	Devon Towards a Rural Strategy – An Agenda
DTF	Devon Towns Forum
GOSW	Government Offices for the South West
LA	Local Authority
MAG	Management Advisory Group
PSG	Policy Steering Group
RBSAG	Rural Business Support Action Group
RR	Rural Renaissance
SERC (Rural Renaissance)	Sustainable Economies for Rural Communities
SFFAG	Sustainable Farming and Food Action Group
STAG	Sustainable Tourism Action Group
SWRDA	South West Regional Development Agency
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector