

APPENDIX A

ECONOMY

**Delivery plan of the South Hams and West Devon
CONNECT STRATEGY (2011-2015)**

Annual Update 2012-2013

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ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The Economy Delivery Plan (2011-2015) is one of a suite of delivery plans which underpin the South Hams and West Devon Connect Strategy. It sets out how partners will work together to enable vibrant and healthy communities.

Partners made a commitment to review and update the Connect Strategy and supporting delivery plans on an annual basis to ensure that the needs of communities continue to be met. This update revisits the local priorities, looks back over the previous year, highlights updated evidence and legislative changes and, most importantly, sets out our action plan for the next 18 months.

For many partners the past year has been challenging with reducing resources and difficult economic conditions; however there continues to be a commitment to work together on the four identified priorities, improving services in the most cost-effective and efficient way to ensure a positive impact on the local economy and job creation

SOUTH HAMS & WEST DEVON PRIORITIES

- Community Life
- Economy
- Environment
- Homes

ECONOMY PRIORITIES

- Enabling a Sustainable Local Economy
- Improving the Local Economy
- Supporting the Local Economy

This is not a standalone document. It merely updates the full delivery plan and should be read in conjunction with it.

The Connect Strategy, the four delivery plans and updates plus brief summary documents for each of the priorities are all available on our website: www.swdevon.gov.uk

If you would like to get involved in helping to shape the priorities for the local area please contact the Economy Team on 01803 861234 or 01822 813600, or email economy@swdevon.gov.uk

GOVERNMENT POLICY UPDATE

PLAN FOR GROWTH

The Plan for Growth was published in March 2011 and sets out the Government's plans for economic recovery. It aims to:

- Create the most competitive tax system in the G20
- Make the UK the best place to start, finance and grow a business
- Encourage investment and exports as a route to a balanced economy and
- Create a more educated and flexible workforce

Included in the measures are plans to reduce corporation tax, the reform of controlled foreign companies, simplification of the tax system, support for small firms through exemptions from regulations, radical changes to the Planning system, more finance for start up and business growth. It refers to the establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships across the country and a focus on growth sectors including, health and life sciences, advanced manufacturing, construction, digital and creative industries, retail, professional and business services, space industry and tourism.

Business Rates Retention Scheme

Devon Authorities are currently looking at a pooling proposal for business rates to maximise the retention of locally generated business rates to ensure the support of the economic regeneration of the wider County of Devon. The outcome of this will be updated into the economy delivery plan when completed. Initial meetings of the pooling group to scope:

- lead authority
- governance arrangements
- investment procedures
- distribution rules
- dissolution rules

Early September 2012	<i>Lead authority develops agreement into a draft proposal</i>
Mid September 2012	<i>Feedback on draft proposals, amendment and agreement on final proposal</i>
By November 2012	<i>Authorities will decide whether to enter into pooling arrangements</i>
By January 2013	<i>Final decision on authorities to be included within pooling arrangements.</i>

RAISING THE PARTICIPATION AGE (RPA)

The government is raising the age at which young people are required to participate in education or training. From 2013 all young people will be required to continue in education or training until end of the academic year in which they turn 17 and from 2015 until they are 18. RPA will effect employers if they employ 16 or 17 year olds for more than 20 hours a week. They will need to provide training towards an accredited qualification or ensure the young people are enrolled in some part time learning which leads to accreditation.

LOCALISM ACT

The Localism Bill was enacted in November 2011 and most of the provisions set out have now been implemented. We will use the Act and supporting guidance, working with local communities, to set relevant actions that deliver the priorities for the local area.

WELFARE REFORM ACT

The Welfare Reform Bill received Royal Assent on the 8th March 2012. The Act provides for the introduction of a 'Universal Credit' to replace a range of existing means-tested benefits and tax credits for people of working age, starting from 2013. The aim is to improve work incentives, simplify the benefits system and tackle administrative complexity delivering fairness to benefit claimants and the tax payer and protecting the most vulnerable. We will be considering the implications of the Act to determine future actions.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS (PCCs)

On the 15 November 2012 elections will be held for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). PCCs will be elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the force to account; effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve. The act will generate clear opportunities for local communities to become more involved in projects and services

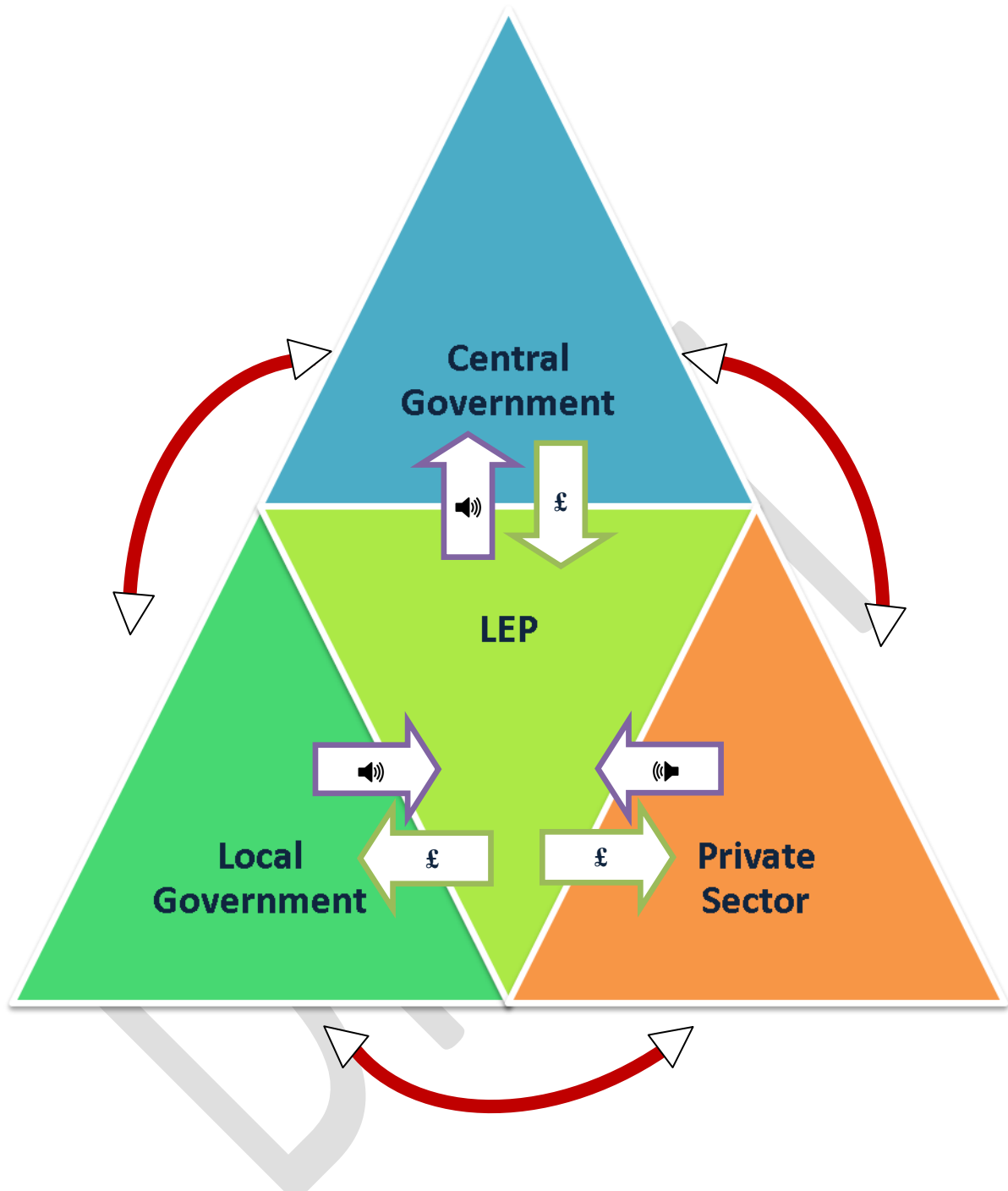
THE NEW NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

This sets the framework for the planning work of both councils. The final version was issued in March 2012 and sets a benchmark against which the councils will be expected to deliver Sustainable Development and guidance on the balance to be struck between the environment, social and economic benefits. There will be a strong emphasis on building a competitive economy, ensuring the vitality of town centres and supporting a prosperous rural economy.

MARINE AND COASTAL LEGISLATION

The Marine Act (which brings in the Marine Management Organisation and Marine Plans) sits alongside new proposed Marine Special Areas of Conservation along the South Devon coast. Implications for local communities, businesses and South Hams Council will need to be assessed during 2012.

ECONOMY RELATIONSHIPS



The above diagram shows the LEP acts as a conduit for *grant funding* and *lobbying* between central government, local government and the private sector.

NATIONAL, REGIONAL & LOCAL FUNDING UPDATE

NATIONAL FUNDING

Portas Pilot

An independent review into the future of high streets was produced by Mary Portas for the Government in December 2011. Main Portas recommendations:

- Improve management of High Streets with new "town teams"
- Affordable town centre car parking
- "Town centre first" approach in planning
- Disincentives for landlords who leave shops empty
- Greater inclusion of the High Street in neighbourhood planning

There have been 27 successful bids to the Portas Pilot fund to date.

Coastal Communities Fund

The UK wide Coastal Communities Fund administered by the Big Lottery 'Big Fund' totally £23.7m, was announced in July 2011 to cover the period 2012/13. This fund is designed to support the economic development of coastal communities by promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs by drawing on their traditional assets and exploiting the potential of emerging green industries and a low carbon future.

Rural Broadband

The Rural Community Broadband Fund (RCBF) is delivered as part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The RCBF is jointly funded by Defra and Broadband Delivery UK and provides grants to communities to establish superfast broadband in hard-to-reach areas.

REGIONAL FUNDING

The Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The LEP was formed under the leadership of the private sector supported by the unitary authorities of Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay. It is one of 39 partnerships created since the Government's Local Growth White Paper published in October 2010.

Key achievements include:

- Awarded £21.5 million Growing Places Fund to unlock stalled projects
- Secured £31m of funding from Broadband Delivery UK, matched by £22m from local sources to deliver improvements to Rural Broadband under the Connecting Devon and Somerset project
- Successfully applied to become one of five national rural growth network pilots to develop a programme to improve the rural economy across the LEP area. For further information please refer to the item 'Rural Growth Network Pilot' below.

Regional Growth Fund

The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is a £2.4bn fund operating across England from 2011 to 2015. It supports projects and programmes that lever private sector investment to create economic growth and sustainable employment. It aims particularly to help those areas and communities which were dependent on the public sector to make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity.

Growing Places Fund

The Growing Places Fund will provide £500m to enable the development of local funds to address infrastructure constraints, promoting economic growth and the delivery of jobs and houses. There are three overriding objectives:

- to generate economic activity in the short term by addressing immediate infrastructure and site constraints and promote the delivery of jobs and housing
- to allow local enterprise partnerships to prioritise the infrastructure they need, empowering them to deliver their economic strategies
- to establish sustainable revolving funds so that funding can be reinvested to unlock further development, and leverage private investment

Rural Growth Network Pilot

Five new public & private sector partnerships called 'Rural Growth Network Pilots' have been selected across rural England worth a total project value of £15m. These pilots will enable businesses in the selected areas to reach their potential by breaking down barriers to economic growth, such as a shortage of work premises, slow internet connection and fragmented business networks. The five pilots which includes, Devon and Somerset will run over three years.

As well as transforming business prospects in these areas, each Rural Growth Network will be a pilot to help the Government look at how best to increase the economic potential of rural areas across the country.

Up to £2 million of the Government's investment in the Rural Growth Networks will target rural enterprises led by women.

COUNTY FUNDING

Devon Work Hub Network

Devon County Council, with part-funding from the Department for Transport is working on a strategy to bring forward a network of high quality work hubs across the County, providing support to a large number of micro-enterprises. As a result, the first work hub in Devon has now been launched, with further rounds of funding becoming available to assist the development of work hubs within the County.

LOCAL FUNDING

Greater Dartmoor LEAF & South Devon Coastal LAG

Sound management performance has secured additional funding for the Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Fund and the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group with the possibility of further funding towards the end of 2012.

Business Improvement Districts (BID)

A BID is a national concept but precisely defined by local geographical area within which businesses have opted to jointly invest in local improvements, in order to enhance the trading environment. It is initiated, financed (through an additional levy on business rates for Towns which agree to support such an approach) and led by the business community.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

1. ENABLING A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY

Key achievements – 2011/12

Promoting enterprise, business start up development and growth:

South Hams & West Devon

- The Councils have engaged with a range of local businesses, including tourism that rely on the quality of the local environment to ensure that key concerns are communicated to the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
- Meetings held with the FSB to collaborate on fit for purpose regulation of businesses and other initiatives

South Hams

- Business Information Point (BIP) submitted a bid to the South Devon Coastal LAG to provide a business improvement project for a period of 18 months across the South Devon Coastal area. There are 4 elements: One to One training, Workshops, support for new business start ups and the provision of information and advice

West Devon

- Devon County Council have purchased the Opportunity Okehampton site from the South West Regional Development Agency and plan to develop it in partnership with the Borough Council. This together with the bringing forward of the Strategic sites in Okehampton and Tavistock as allocated in the core strategy, should ensure an adequate supply of land and premises over the next 5- 10 years
- BIP have assisted 238 businesses in the last year. They have established an Enterprise Club (the first of its kind in Devon) and plan to establish another club in Tavistock.
- Tavistock Town Council and WDBC have agreed to promote Tavistock as a Key Centre in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site
- Grant support provided for the establishment of Food Hub in Okehampton

Enabling access to sites, premises and broadband:

South Hams & West Devon

- Provision of information and support, together with up to £50,000 of funding to support the Connecting Devon and Somerset bid to Broadband Delivery UK to facilitate the extension of high speed broadband to all rural communities. A allocation of up to £31m agreed by BDUK

South Hams

- Totnes was chosen for a Devon work hub pilot. Workshops undertaken to establish work hub locations, providers and to stimulate interest and demand for the location and establishment of a work hub.
- In Totnes, an Economy Strategy is being developed by a partnership of organisations. The objective is to change the current economic models operating in the town to minimise leakage of expenditure on goods and services to create a sustainable town economy.
- Photovoltaic cells have been placed on the roof of Follaton House.
- SHDC has served a CPO and continues to explore strategic funding opportunities at Langage.
- SHDC continues to liaise with project promoters at both Diary Crest and Noss-On-Dart
- A feasibility study was carried out to establish possible community broadband solutions for Thurlestone and Slapton

West Devon

- Proposals for a Work hub in Tavistock being promoted through the Local Chamber and Business Improvement District (BID) Company
- Continued working with Transition Tavistock
- Submitted proposals for a Portas Pilot bid for Tavistock
- Continue to lobby for the introduction of Passenger services between Okehampton and Exeter and the construction of a station at Okehampton Parkway. Provision made for the re-instatement of the Bere Alston to Tavistock rail service as part of the development of Strategic sites under the adopted Core Strategy.
- Core Strategy adopted with sites identified for additional employment sites in both Okehampton and Tavistock
- WDBC & Devon County Council are co-operating to bring forward Opportunity Okehampton

South Hams cont.

- A number of business relocation and expansion requests have been signposted and introduced to land owners and landlords in the private sector to optimise business opportunities, maintain and create jobs
- SHDC Council owned units achieved 91% occupancy
- Development Plan Documents for mixed site developments adopted in February 2011
- Engagement in a number of pre planning applications and master planning consultations to progress the delivery of employment land identified within the Councils adopted Development Plan Documents, to aid economic growth and jobs
- Committee resolution, subject to a Section 106 obligation, to approve the application for the Sherford New Community, which will include up to 67,000 sq metres of Employment floor space and 16,000 sq metres of Retail. A combination of the adopted planning policies, proposed planning conditions and the planning agreement secures business opportunities within the development

Key challenges to delivery

- Lack of available land and premises with B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution) use to support relocation and expansion enquiries in the South Hams
- Access to broadband for businesses. Many businesses are experiencing reduced broadband capacity.
- The roll out of superfast broadband will not reach all rural communities by 2015
- Lack of business finance to bring forward employment sites and premises
- Weak economy

Messages from Stakeholder Engagement

South Hams & West Devon

- Obtaining finance to invest in business is very difficult. It is one of the biggest constraints to assisting business growth and job creation. There does not appear to be additional monies to support increased activity in the economy or reduce longer term interest rates that companies and individuals borrow at, even though the Bank of England has introduced quantitative easing
- Improve Broadband speeds and connectivity
- Recognition by the planning service that economic growth and jobs can be generated through development

South Hams

- Reduction in the capital allowance scheme for the purchase of capital equipment, in particular for manufacturing businesses, does not assist business investment and growth
- Provision of flexible space for small business (e.g. Work hubs)
- Provision of a comprehensive business advice and mentoring service
- Planning policy should reflect business needs in terms of both the provision of land and the nature of employment units built, in particular to support SMEs, rather than larger scale units
- Planning policy and other Council activities should support the long term future of High Streets, including lobbying Central Government to develop a national agenda that “supports” High Streets
- The Council could provide effective support for town centres through car parking management and pricing, more robust planning policies to control non retail uses that undermine the viability of town centres and actively facilitate events that encourage visitors to town centres, e.g. markets and events. The Council should start by assessing its current approach against the Mary Portas report

West Devon

- Provide more affordable land and premises to support local market in West Devon
- Lobby for investment in rail infrastructure in West Devon

Source: South Hams & West Devon Business Voice

What are we doing?

- Effective marketing of Council owned premises – recent successes at Pitts Cleave
- Working with Devon County Council on an inward investment campaign called 'Devon Delivers' to promote business re-location and investment in South Hams and West Devon
- Contributing to the development of the Councils new business website
- Working with businesses on business development & growth opportunities in South Hams
- Business relocation and expansion requests are signposted and introduced to land owners and landlords in the private sector to optimise business opportunities, maintain and create jobs in the South Hams
- Engaging in a number of pre planning applications and master planning consultations to progress the delivery of employment land identified within the South Hams adopted Development Plan Documents, to aid economic growth and jobs
- Enabling, facilitating, contributing, supporting & writing funding applications for external funding.
- Regional Growth Fund, ERDF – Competitiveness Fund and Coastal Communities fund in the South Hams
- Working with partners to develop the Opportunity Okehampton site to enable and facilitate future economic growth and job creation
- Working with the County Council and BDUK on broadband development
- Preparing oven-ready project ideas for future funding opportunities
- Managing West Devon's EDR grant scheme totalling £21,000. All the funds available in 2011/12 have been allocated

New evidence for this priority:

The June 2012 South Hams and West Devon business survey identified the following:

- Following a period of reduced activity in the 2009 survey period, there was a refreshed attitude for the majority of businesses towards investing in their own development, in particular investing in premises, equipment and marketing
- The availability of appropriate premises was a significant concern, particularly in the South Hams.
- Businesses were prepared to invest in tailoring their premises to their needs, contingent on being able to access finance and planning policy that supports small business
- There is an interest from businesses of all sorts in developing their premises or finding new premises, and many of these businesses intend to implement their development plans soon. Of these, just under half planned on expanding their existing premises, with just over a quarter planning on refurbishment
- Costs, size and access to broadband are the most important factors in choosing and finding new premises
- There were significant issues and frustration expressed by businesses in accessing finance, which is a constraint on growth and development

2. IMPROVING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Key achievements – 2011/12

Improving productivity through the encouragement of skills, innovation and development:

South Hams & West Devon

- Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund (LEAF) named best performing Local Action Group (LAG) in the country (Please note there are 64 LAGs nationally)
- Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund Outputs:
 - Total project value £4,586,351
 - Leverage 2.6:1
 - No of projects support 79
 - No of micro-enterprises supported /created 596
 - No of new tourism actions support 10
 - No of training days 589
 - No villages where actions took place 10
 - No of new jobs created 18
- Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund received a top up allocation of additional funding from Defra of £201,000 as a result of sound management performance which includes project commitment, spend and delivery to add to the existing programme value of £1.74m
- Business Information Point (BIP) continues to run the New Enterprise Allowance scheme in Devon and Cornwall creating 216 Business plans, and 191 now new firms trading
- Training, skills, apprentices and work experience promoted through the Business Voice electronic news bulletins.
- Sector relationships maintained and developed through the Business Voice

South Hams

- Two renewable energy workshops delivered to assist the establishment of a renewable energy network and assist supply chain development
- South Devon Coastal Local Action Group in top five performing Local Action Groups within the Country (Note, there are 64 LAGs nationally)
- South Devon Coastal Local Action Group received a top up allocation of an additional £168,000 from Defra as a result of sound management performance which includes project commitment, spend and delivery to add to the existing programme value of £1.64m
- South Devon Coastal LAG Outputs:
 - Leverage 2.6:1
 - Total project value £4,262,734
 - No of projects support 88
 - No of micro-enterprises supported /created 138
 - No of new tourism actions support 16
 - No of training days 589
 - No villages where actions took place 18
 - No of new jobs created 25
 - No of SHDC play projects support 10
 - Funding allocated to SHDC play space £94,098
- Judged South Devon Skills Awards
- Contributed to the successful South Devon College National Enterprise Week
- Responded to Funding consultations for the period 2014-2020 including the EU Common Strategic Framework Funds

West Devon

- Tavistock BID Company formed and delivering its first year Action Plan. BID Group formed in Okehampton. Both supported with funds from the EDRG scheme.
- Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project nearing completion with legacy Plan being prepared
- Skills Hub (Okehampton Works) successfully implemented including an Okehampton Works week in September 2011 and follow on Job Centre Plus flexible fund project
- A renewable energy workshop was held for rural businesses

Using knowledge to understand needs of businesses and of the local area:

South Hams & West Devon

- A template for Town Visions has been designed, prepared and agreed
- Town Visioning work is now developing within Okehampton, Tavistock and Totnes led by the Town Councils working with other local groups
- Further economic visioning is being undertaken by local business communities, e.g. Tavistock Business Improvement District and the Totnes Economy project
- Business Survey brief completed, survey commissioned and completed
- South Hams Members resolved to support Cornwall Council's campaign to remove the Council Tax discount on second homes

Key challenges to delivery

- Lack of suitable applicants with the appropriate skills for business needs
- The encouragement of new business formation, growth in indigenous businesses and business relocations in sectors that can help the local economy to achieve higher levels of growth in GVA, productivity and wages

Messages from Stakeholder Engagement

South Hams & West Devon

- Focus on regeneration in the principle market towns
- Greater flexibility in parking charges to support business activity

South Hams

- VAT and in particular Business Rates are issues for South Hams businesses

West Devon

- More support for getting young people into work
- Address issues of proximity to Cornwall and issues of access to EU and other grant funds
- Make procurement of Council contracts easier for local business

Source: *South Hams & West Devon Business Voice*

What are we doing?

- Delivering sound management performance to maximise project commitment and spend on the Rural Development Programme for England – Local Action (Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Fund and South Devon Coastal Local Action Group) by SHDC who are the accountable body for the programme
- Effective marketing of Greater Dartmoor LEAF and South Devon Coastal LAG funding opportunities, attendance at Management team meetings (Decision making) and the completion of project appraisals
- Working with key networks, including: tourism, cultural and creative, food and drink, marine, agriculture and Renewable Energy
- Developing local supply chain initiatives
- Keeping abreast of workforce development issues and responding to specific needs when they occur. Example: Redundancies in Okehampton
- Funding achieved through the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group to support the delivery of business support in the South Devon Coastal area
- Service Level agreement with the BIP to deliver business support activities in West Devon.
- Meeting with Business Groups/organisations when appropriate.
- Members in South Hams are developing an approach for closer working with town centre groups to respond to economic pressures occurring in the High Street

New evidence for this priority:

South Hams and West Devon Business Survey June 2012

- In the South Hams, the profile of businesses surveyed was less typical of the national or regional picture, with a much higher proportion of wholesale and retail businesses and professional, scientific and technical businesses
- The largest and the smallest businesses were showing the greatest resilience to recession, retaining or increasing both their turnover and profitability, whilst the medium sized businesses had taken the greatest financial hits
- There were reports of increased staffing from 2010 to 2011 following a big drop in 2009, but the predictions for the future showed a trend towards more casual and temporary staffing
- The first evidence is found in this survey of a change in recruitment issues, with a lack of relevant experience becoming the most frequently reported issue. There is a reflection of the national trends in this survey with businesses attracting lots of unsuitable applicants for posts, but few with the right skills experience and attitude to meet their needs
- Businesses in the two districts differed in their perception of other issues, with West Devon businesses reporting that meeting wage demands was a significant issue whilst South Hams reported that unsuitable personal attributes was a common recruitment issue
- Whilst the nature of the recruitment challenges have changed, for over three quarters of the businesses the issue of staff recruitment difficulties remains a threat to the growth of their business and their ability to compete with other businesses particularly in the South Hams
- Female run businesses have been shown to be more resilient in times of recession and have been demonstrated to perform more strongly than their male counterparts, so the prospects for West Devon and South Hams with high proportions of female run businesses should be strong for the future

3. SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Key achievements – 2011/12

Providing advice, information and support:

South Hams

- A work club was set up at the CVS offices, Follaton House, supported by SHDC
- Provided £40,000 core funding to Visit South Devon and assisted in the development of its long term business strategy

West Devon

- Okehampton Works has been effective in restabilising the affects of major redundancies in the town, with unemployment figures returning to levels before these closures occurred
- In January 2012 we paid £1,000 to a PR agency to work with the Dartmoor Partnership to tie in with the release of the Stephen Spielberg film War Horse which resulted in £347,000 worth of press coverage for the West Devon area
- 2011/12 economic initiative funding fully utilised supporting 5 different projects, including Business Improvement District proposals in Tavistock and Okehampton, Bank Square Arts Market in Tavistock and the Okehampton Food Hub
- Safeguarded the Tourist Information Centres in West Devon by researching alternative delivery models, reviewing staffing levels, investigating income opportunities and benchmarking service performance
- 2011/12 arts grant funding totalling £4,600 supported 15 projects, which resulted in £91,230 of additional funding and income. Young people benefitted with work experience on professional film set, learning and leading singing activities and gaining dance leadership qualifications. 4 festivals supported benefitting local economies with increased visitor spend

Engaging with all sectors of the local economy:

South Hams & West Devon

- South Hams and West Devon Business Voice Sounding Board developed and established
- Over the last 12 months meetings, workshops and consultations have been held to better understand the needs and aspirations of the business community
- Business priorities identified
- Members of the Heart of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) have attended meetings of the business voice to ensure understanding of business challenges and opportunities
- Arts Newsletter produced monthly

Key challenges to delivery

- Finance for businesses to start up, develop and grow

Messages from Stakeholder Engagement

South Hams

- Provide a comprehensive business advice and mentoring service
- Encourage the LEP to support export initiatives to create manufacturing jobs
- Provision of seed corn funding, staff support, marketing and the use of council assets to support business activity
- Explore business rate relief for small and start-up business

West Devon

- Provide more support for getting young people into work
- Address issues of proximity to Cornwall and issues of access to EU and other grant funds

South Hams and West Devon

Champion the cause of small business through LEP, government, MPs, etc.

Source: *South Hams & West Devon Business Voice*

What are we doing?

- Establishing and developing the Business Voice (BV) to:
 - Enable businesses to network and share information
 - Enable businesses to influence the Councils policy and direction
 - Enable businesses to have a mechanism to influence the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). A board member regularly attends the BV meetings.
 - Signpost businesses, through the BV newsletter to funding, skills, training and apprentice opportunities and any other relevant information.
 - Business database developed and maintained
 - Signposted creative businesses, through the arts newsletter to funding, skills, training and any other relevant information.
- Developing business website
- Engaging with market town groups to develop their visions and action plans – Hatherleigh, Okehampton and Dartmouth.
- Continue to implement major regeneration schemes e.g. Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project
- Support for the BID process in Okehampton and Dartmouth. Delivery in Tavistock
- Review of the Economy Delivery Plan following the review of the Shared Service
- Ongoing engagement with Strategic Partners – LEP, County Council, Government Departments

New evidence for this priority:

South Hams and West Devon Business Survey June 2012

- There were significant issues and frustration expressed by businesses in accessing finance, which was more of an issue than has been found in any of the previous surveys, and which is viewed as a constraint on growth and development
- Accessing finance has been shown to be a particular issue for women, with issues sometimes being perceived as greater than they are
- Conversely, female run businesses have been shown to be more resilient in times of recession and have been demonstrated to perform more strongly than their male counterparts, so the prospects for South Hams and West Devon with high proportions of female run businesses should be strong for the future
- Businesses were keen to receive support from local authorities through a strong economic policy which supports small businesses and understands the financial pressure that they face, and encourages visitors and customers into towns/villages