Links are in red

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Sent: Wednesday, 10 March, 2004 16:28
Attach: 7 Community Strategy for Mendip.doc; 12 Budget.doc; 3 MSP Board minutes 3 February 2004.doc; 5 Glastonbury SRB.doc; 6 Mendip Local Development Scheme.doc; 6a Mendip LDS Appendix .doc; 1 Agenda 16.03.04.doc; 8 Council Tax on Second Homes.doc
Subject: MSP Board Meeting 16th March 2004 - Agenda

Dear MSP Board member, please find attached the agenda and papers for the meeting of the MSP Board on **Tuesday 16 March**, commencing at **3pm in the Small Hall at Glastonbury Town Hall.**

The following documents should be attached to this message:
1 Agenda
3 Minutes of the meeting of 3 February 2004
5 Glastonbury SRB
6 Mendip Local Development Scheme
6a Mendip LDS Appendix
7 Community Strategy for Mendip – Covering Report
8 Council Tax on Second Homes
12 Budget

With regard to agenda item 7 – *Community Strategy for Mendip*, a hard copy of the draft Community Strategy is being sent by post to each Board member, plus everyone listed in the 'to…' box at the top of this message.

If you require a copy to be sent to a substitute not named above, please let me know.

Regards

Sara Skirton
Community Planning and Consultation Officer
01749 341340

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Mendip Strategic Partnership

Board Meeting 16th March 2004
3pm in the Small Hall, Glastonbury Town Hall

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Public Participation**
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 3rd February 2004**

4. **Mendip District Council's Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) – Self Assessment Document**
   Verbal report from Stuart Brown, Business Manager, Corporate Finance and Resources - MDC (to ask the MSP Board to 'sign off/agree' the Self Assessment Document)

5. **Bringing Glastonbury Together – SRB Programme and Forward Strategy**
   Report presented by Sarah Guscott, External Funding Officer, MDC

6. **Mendip Local Development Scheme**
   Report presented by Simon Eames. MSP Board is invited to nominate a Board Member to work with MDC Members and Officers in developing the Mendip Local Development Scheme.

7. **Community Strategy for Mendip**
   To consider a more complete version of the draft Strategy, prior to it going out for public consultation during April-June. A hard copy version is being distributed to all Board members

8. **Council Tax on Second Homes**
   Report from Roger Kershaw, Corporate Director, Somerset County Council

9. **Partnership Working – Community Safety**
   For information / consideration. Copy of a letter from Avon and Somerset Police Authority to be circulated at the meeting

10. **Shepton 21**
    Verbal update for information

11. **Communications Group**
    Verbal update for information

12. **Budget Report**
    Report for information

13. **Any Other Business**

14. **Dates of future meetings**
    Suggested dates for Board meetings for the remainder of 2004 are 25th May, 13th July, 28th September and 30th November

The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd February 2004 at 3 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council offices, Shepton Mallet

PRESENT:	Ron Ballantine	Chairman
	Penny Church	Citizens Advice Bureau (Vice Chairman
	Pastor Stephen Fowler	Elim Christian Centre
	Cllr. Harvey Siggs	Mendip District Council
	Karen Deverell	Mendip YMCA
	Peter Chapman	Mendip Housing Limited
	Elaine Pugsley	NCH
	Richard Dixon	Mendip Environment Forum
	Nick Cottle	SALC
	Penny Baker	MACOC
	Alan Gloak	Somerset County Council (substitute for Cathy Bakewell)
	Chief Spt. Jim Shearer	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
	Zena Pollard	Mendip Economy Forum
OFFICERS PRESENT:	David Thomson	Mendip District Council
	Sara Skirton	Mendip District Council
	Lesley Rowan	Mendip District Council
	Stuart Brown	Mendip District Council
	Kate Perkins	Mendip District Council
	Roger Kershaw	Somerset County Council
ALSO PRESENT:	David Rees	South West RDA

Agenda Item Number	Agenda Item	
1.	**Apologies for Absence**	
	Cathy Bakewell Ian Bennett Cate Mack Roger Martin Ian Wallace Gaynor Clarke	Somerset County Council Strode College CPRE Substitute for Cate Mack Young Somerset Jobcentre Plus
2.	**Public Participation** None	

3.	**Welcome and Introductions** The Chairman introduced David Thomson, the new Chief Executive of Mendip District Council, and welcomed him to the meeting. He also welcomed other new members of the Board and each person present then introduced himself/herself to the meeting.
4.	**Minutes of the Last Meeting** Cllr. Gloak asked that it be recorded that he substituted for Cathy Bakewell at the meeting. The Minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting. **Matters Arising** ***11. A Food Festival for Mendip*** – Lesley Rowan reported that the workshop in Glastonbury had been successful, and will be followed up by a workshop in Frome. The Festival will take place from 18th to 24th October 2004.
5.	**Shepton Mallet MCTI** David Rees of South West RDA updated the meeting on some key headlines regarding the regeneration project for Shepton Mallet with a view to inviting information and ideas from the Board. £85,000 was available to produce a five to ten year strategic vision for the town and hinterland, building on the Cake of Life consultation exercise and leading to an Action Plan. The multi-agency Steering Group will engage with the community and consultants on identifying strategic priorities to develop the area and achieve a vibrant town centre and stronger community. Ways to implement an Action Plan will be identified. Feedback from the meeting was: • There is a need for more affordable child care and support to encourage families back into employment. Find ways of delivering the service throughout the town, eg. using the Sure Start model. • Young people should be engaged in the process, and it is important to raise people's belief in the town. • There should be more concentration on tourism, and linking this with Wells and Glastonbury, promoting things to do over a number of days. The Prison, as a major employer, should also be involved. • The image of the town must be improved. • Church leaders in the town could be usefully involved.
6.	**Mendip District Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)** Stuart Brown attended to explain the process and timetable. CPA is a method of assessing local authorities, introduced by the Government, the result of which will be a single word assessment from a range. The CPA will take place on 10th to 14th May, 2004 and will be carried

	out by Inspectors from the Audit Commission. The process will begin on 11th February with a Peer Review by a group of officers and members from other authorities. This will follow a similar process to the inspection in May, and will highlight the Council's strengths and weaknesses. The process will cover ten themes, plus two diagnostics (balancing housing markets and open spaces). The external auditors will also comment on financial management and risk management. A Self Assessment will be submitted to the peer challenge team and to the Audit Commission by week ending 15th February. The MSP will be asked to contribute to the process as key partners for Mendip. The Self Assessment in final form will be available for inspection. Cllr. Siggs pointed out that it is important to carry out an honest assessment and to achieve the best possible rating. Not only will this improve image and morale, but could open additional funding routes. The Chairman wished MDC well in the assessment and believed that members of the Partnership would support the District Council.
7.	**Progress Towards a Community Strategy for Mendip** Sara Skirton explained that the document circulated to members was a first rough draft, produced by the Task Group in a very short timescale. Some themes had been progressed more than others, and several voluntary sector representatives still had to be approached. The work of Shepton 21 will also be integrated into the Strategy. The gaps will be filled, consultation will take place with major stakeholders, and a final draft brought back to the MSP before public consultation. The MSP was asked to approve the approach being taken and the timescale to produce the Strategy by September 2004. Comments from the meeting included: 1. P. Chapman and N. Cottle both expressed approval of the draft and it was felt that it was a big move forward. 2. P. Church felt that there could be more information and communication with hard-to-reach sections of the community. 3. Z. Pollard will be using the draft as the basis for Shepton 21 work, and there will also be feed back from other Parish Plans. 4. R. Kershaw thought it was an excellent first draft and gave MSP a reference point for future actions. It linked with the SSP Strategy. 5. Cllr. Gloak thought the document well presented, clear and precise. He suggested there should be a glossary if required. 6. R. Dixon suggested that the officer group develop ways of responding to points raised by the public. 7. The Chairman felt that some of the themes could be grouped together to attract more cross-cutting comment. 8. Cllr. Siggs agreed the length and format, and felt that it would be necessary to release MDC officer time to work on the individual elements.

	9. The Chairman suggested that other agencies would be asked to identify officers to take on specific parts of the work. The draft will go back to the Task Group with the approval of the Board, with the individual comments put forward. Key partners, e.g. Youth Service and Connexions, will be involved, together with other agencies not yet approached. It is hoped that the document, supported by an Action Plan, will be ready for consultation by the next Board meeting. The Chairman confirmed that the Board agreed to move forward as described in the report, and thanked all concerned in the Task Group and District Council for the work put into the draft Strategy.
	Communication Group Report Zena Pollard reported on the work of the group and thanked Richard Dixon for the time and work put into the website. The website content is available on CD Rom at £1 each. In response to queries from the meeting, Zena Pollard confirmed that the site could be linked into other websites, and that a counter could be installed to audit the number of "hits". Penny Church reported that some smaller voluntary groups had not received the Newsletter. Sara Skirton explained that a limited number were printed, but it can be e-mailed or, if necessary, more hard copies can be produced. Ros Wilkins can produce a list of the groups. It was also agreed that copies would be given to the Mendip Community Support team to distribute as they contact voluntary groups.
8.	**Budget** Sara Skirton reported that there had been no expenditure of Partnership funds since the last meeting. A balance of £14,056 is available. The Board was asked to agree to pay 50 per cent of the printing costs for the Community Strategy, which should be under £1,000. It was agreed that firm printing costs would be produced for approval at the next Board meeting.
9.	**Any Other Business** Nick Cottle suggested that, since the Chairman of the Transport Sub Group was longer a member of the Board, the group be put on hold pending the outcomes of the Strategy Task Group. Lesley Rowan reported that she had received a letter offering people the opportunity to attend Partnerships for Warmth, tackling fuel poverty. If anyone is interested, they should let Lesley Rowan know.
10.	**Dates of Future Meetings** The next meeting is on 16th March 2004, venue to be arranged.

THE MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

AGENDA ITEM:5

FROM: Sarah Guscott
External Funding Officer, MDC

Date: 16th March 2004

SUBJECT: **Bringing Glastonbury Together SRB Programme and forward strategy**

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper is to inform the Partnership of the progress of the Glastonbury Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Programme and its preparation of a forward strategy for regeneration of the town. It highlights the key issues affecting programme implementation, and seeks Partnership support to the continued progress of the programme and forward strategy.

Background

1.2 Glastonbury was awarded £713,250 in August 2000 from the SWRDA under SRB Round 6, towards a 5 year regeneration programme to tackle the social and economic needs of the town. It has 3 principal themes:

SO1 : improving the employment prospects, education and skills of local people
SO2 : addressing social exclusion and improving opportunities for the disadvantaged
SO3 : supporting and promoting growth in local economies and businesses

There are also 2 secondary themes, with smaller grant allocation within the financial plan :
SO4 : promoting sustainable regeneration, improving and protecting the environment
SO5 : reducing crime and drug abuse and improving community safety

1.3 The bid to SWRDA was based on a strong set of deprivation indicators for the town, which are among the worst in Somerset - high unemployment rates; households on income support; mismatch between the jobs available and individuals' skills or work choices; poor child health; fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. The SRB grant was to contribute to a programme with a total value of £4million, with individual projects supported drawing in other grants and mainstream funds. Target outcomes include reducing unemployment, increasing business start ups and survival rates, increasing volunteer activity, development of new community groups and a community support infrastructure, and reducing the fear of crime, particularly among vulnerable groups.

1.4 The programme is led by a Partnership Board, with support from the District Council. Its membership is drawn from community groups, private sector, public agencies, and local authorities. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the programme, and project approval. A total of 16

projects have been awarded grants so far, including a Neighbourhood Nursery, family befriending service, ICT learning centre, business resource centre, new business start up scheme with Prince's Trust, green business club, establishment of a development trust, and a project to address the needs of individuals on the margins of society leading chaotic lives.

1.5 The programme had a difficult first couple of years. SRB has specific rules and regulations governing its operation, and these cut against the understandable desire in the community to make decisions swiftly and according to where they saw the needs. The project application and appraisal mechanisms and monitoring requirements were difficult for some projects and Board members to accept. At the same time a lack of capacity within the community to develop their own projects to fit the programme, and a resistance to involving agencies in project delivery, led to delays and frustration.

1.6 The Partnership went through a strategic review process last year, including revisiting the strategy and Board membership. This led to a reinvigoration of the Board, with strategic agencies re-engaged, and new chairmanship. A review of the programme and projects last November indicated the need for structured support for projects to assist them to meet their objectives and identify ways in which their activities might be continued after the grant ends. It also identified the need to re-establish links with each key organisation involved in regeneration activity in Glastonbury, to ensure integration between activities, avoid duplication and address gaps in activity, but also ensure that by all organisations working in the same direction the maximum opportunity for local benefit was derived.

Partnership working

1.7 It is a widely accepted principle now in regeneration that community involvement must be at its heart. This is to ensure that regeneration projects are relevant to local needs. However in order to achieve this communities must have the skills and confidence to participate, and this requires community development work over the long term. One of the early issues in the Glastonbury programme was a strong, and valid, wish to develop their own projects – but lacking the skills, information, and support to be able to fully engage with the programme. The need for agencies to work alongside communities to support their long term development, and equip them with the skills and confidence to develop their own solutions to local needs, was a critical gap in the programme, and the demise of Voluntary Action Mendip exacerbated this.

1.8 Regeneration programmes should be partnership based, including the involvement of key strategic organisations, the aim being that mainstream agencies prioritise their resources to come alongside the SRB programme to support activity at local level. It has been very challenging for agencies, with limited budgets and staff resources, to adjust their own action plans, particularly when there is no direct financial gain. The long-term and intensive engagement of agencies has been patchy. This was not helped by initial community resistance to agency engagement, but it also proved difficult to secure agency input and commitment at a senior level, and to secure staff to support local community capacity building. In part this stemmed from the lack of resources within agencies to dedicate intensive support, and a lack of

direction in the programme which could give a focus to how agencies might work to support the programme aims. Senior level commitment was also critical to ensuring support at a local level.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

2.1 The programme is now entering its 5th and final year, and needs to ensure

a) that the programme and projects are fully supported to enable them to achieve their outputs, and contribute to the programme objectives;
b) that a forward strategy is devised that takes forward those activities initiated through the SRB programme, and puts in place a framework to continue the long-term regeneration of Glastonbury. Included in this is making sure the opportunities arising from the development of the Morland site benefit local residents, through job opportunities, business premises, and community facilities.

2.2 The SRB Board has agreed to develop a "compact" with each key organisation (from voluntary and community, public and private sectors) to secure their formal commitment to the regeneration framework for Glastonbury. This will include support to projects where appropriate, identification of mainstream initiatives and funding to support Glastonbury regeneration, and the identification of Glastonbury needs in action plans and strategies. The compact approach will also map out existing activities and encourage a co-ordinated response to local needs. At the same time the SRB Board will seek to strengthen the community infrastructure in Glastonbury, to equip local community groups with key management and development skills.

2.3 To ensure the final year of the programme is effective and achieves the majority of its stated outcomes, and sets the framework for future regeneration of the town, it is critical that key strategic agencies such as County Council, Learning and Skills Council, Primary Care Trust, Business Link, JobCentre Plus, College, housing associations, and Police can commit to support activities at a local level. The role of the MSP in supporting the SRB Board in this work, and assisting where appropriate to secure agency commitment, will be extremely valuable.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Partnership is asked to give its support to the SRB Board in seeking key agency commitment to the SRB programme and the forward strategy for the regeneration of Glastonbury.

Contact Officer: Sarah Guscott, Mendip District Council
Tel: 01749 341352
guscotts@mendip.gov.uk

THE MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Agenda Item: 6

From: Simon Eames
Mendip District Council

Date: 16th March 2004

Subject: **Mendip Local Development Scheme**

INTRODUCTION

The Government is currently bringing forward changes to the Planning System, including changes to the Statutory Development Plans System. These changes are outlined in a report to Mendip District Council's Cabinet of 15th March, which is attached as Appendix 1.

Local Plans are to be replaced with something called "Local Development Frameworks" (LDFs). These are intended to be positive plans which effectively promote, guide and control development and which reflect the needs of the whole community.

The Mendip Community Strategy, being prepared by the Mendip Strategic Partnership, will set out the broad vision for the future of the District, with proposals and actions for delivering that vision (Local Government Act 2000). The Mendip Local Development Framework should be a key component of that delivery plan, giving what the Government describes as "spatial expression" to the Community Strategy.

There is clearly a need for close co-ordination of the Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework. In recognition of this, Councillor Harvey Siggs, the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for both of these policy tools, has suggested that the MSP be invited to nominate a Board Member to work with a small group of District Councillors and Officers in preparing the project plan (known as the Local Development Scheme). This would be an extremely helpful step in helping to ensure that the Scheme makes adequate provision for close working with the MSP in preparing the LDF.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mendip Strategic Partnership Board nominates a Board Member to work with a small group of Mendip District Council Members and Officers in developing the Mendip Local Development Scheme.

Contact Officer: Simon Eames
Telephone No: (01749) 341314

CABINET

Agenda Item:

Ward: All

Portfolio: Corporate Finance and Resources

FROM: Councillor Siggs **Date:** 15th March 2004

SUBJECT: **Mendip Local Development Scheme**

Summary:	This report advises the Cabinet of forthcoming changes to the Development Plans system and of the key implications for this Council. These include the statutory requirement to produce a "Local Development Framework" (LDF) and to have this in place within three years of the commencement of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which is currently expected in June/July 2004. In order to achieve this, the Council needs to prepare a project plan, known as a Local Development Scheme.
Recommendation:	To note this report and that provision for this work has been made in the proposed Business Plans.
Links to Priorities:	Maintaining a relevant, up-to-date development plan is essential for the Council to be effective in delivering its Vision and Priorities, and is key to an efficient and effective development control function. Efficient progress in introducing the new development plan system will also enable the Council to qualify for the maximum amount of Planning Delivery Grant in future years, that can be awarded for development plan performance.
Impact on Business Plans:	Provision has been made in the proposed Business Plans for this work to be undertaken.
Financial Implications:	Provision has been made in the Council's Budget for this work to be undertaken. It is proposed to use part of the Planning Delivery Grant for 2004/05 to fund a graduate year-out placement student to increase the capacity of the Team. Maximising future Planning Delivery Grant awards for development plan performance.
Legal Implications:	Upon commencement of the Act, it will be a statutory requirement for the Council to produce and maintain an up-to-date Local Development Framework.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	The LDF should provide a mechanism to enable the Council to require that new development designs out opportunities for crime.
Equalities Implications:	None identified.
Risk Assessment:	To be undertaken as part of the project planning process.
Scrutiny Recommendation	None. Scrutiny Board to be involved in the project planning process.

(if any)	

BACKGROUND

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent in March/April 2004 and commencement of Parts 1 and 2 of the Act, relating to Development Plans, is expected in June/July 2004. The Act will introduce a new Statutory Development Plans System, which includes the replacement of Local Plans with "Local Development Frameworks" (LDFs). County Structure Plans will be abolished and the matters they currently deal with will in future be mainly addressed in Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) with some matters dealt with in LDFs. LDFs will provide a long term spatial context for community strategies and will be a key component in their delivery.

It will be a statutory requirement for all district councils to produce an LDF. This must be done in accordance with a "Local Development Scheme" (LDS or Scheme), which is essentially a project plan prepared by the local authority and submitted to the Secretary of State. This fits neatly with the Cabinet's recent decision to introduce a formalised method of Project Management across the Council. The Adopted Local Plan is one of the few examples where Project Management methods have been employed by the Council to bring management advantages in achieving project objectives.

It is essential that the Council maintains a clear focus on how the new Development Plans System can help the Council to achieve its Vision and to deliver its new Priorities and Objectives. However, it is inevitable that with the introduction of the new system, and with the accompanying Regulations and Guidance, there will initially be much discussion about process. Time invested at the Project Planning Phase will be well spent if it results in a speedier plan-making process and the right outcomes on the ground.

The Government's intention is that the new system will be:

- more responsive to local circumstances;
- more focused on delivery on the ground;
- faster and easier to keep up-to-date; and
- more transparent and inclusive with better community involvement.

This is to be achieved in part by the LDF being comprised of a series of "Local Development Documents" (LDDs) that can be prepared sequentially or in parallel, enabling the Council to prioritise its resources and to update individual LDDs more quickly than a review of an entire Local Plan. The Council's programme of LDD preparation has to be set out in its Local Development Scheme.

This Council is in the fortunate position of not starting from scratch. The Council can set out in its Scheme those parts of the Adopted Local Plan that it wishes to "save" beyond the 3 year transitional period, provided that these parts meet the requirements of the new system. Some parts of the Plan, such as the Plan Strategy, will require amendment and updating rather than an entirely new approach. The Council needs to explore the choices about the sequence in which it prepares its LDDs to best deliver its Priorities, and reflect available resources, and the conclusions reached need to inform the Scheme.

The Government expects all local planning authorities to move to the new system at the first opportunity. The Council is expected to use the period between now and commencement of the Act to ensure that it is geared up in readiness for the start of the new system. The Government Office for the South West is assisting the five

Somerset district councils in preparing their LDSs through the provision of advice. Officers from the Somerset districts have begun to explore the scope for collaborative working on certain LDDs in order to increase the capacity of each council, avoid duplication of effort, exploit our respective strengths and establish where the adoption of common approaches will work to our mutual benefit.

Mendip District Council will be required to have its Adopted LDF in place within three years of commencement of the Act. The Adopted Mendip District Local Plan will be automatically "saved" for a three year period from commencement (under Transitional Arrangements proposed in the Bill and Draft Regulations).

Provision for this work to be undertaken has been made in the proposed Business Plans. The Government is seeking to reward good performance in development plan production by basing part of the annual Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) on performance in this area. Under the methodology previously announced for calculating the size of the PDG for 2004/05, this Council would be awarded the maximum grant that can be gained for development plan performance, on the basis of its excellent performance with the Adopted Local Plan. The size of the grant that is to be awarded to this Authority had yet to be announced at the time of writing this report but is expected to be known before the Cabinet meeting of 15th March, where a verbal update will be given. In view of the reduction in the number of planning policy posts, it is proposed to use part of the PDG to fund a graduate year-out placement student to increase the capacity of the Team. In future years, the part of the Planning Delivery Grant attributable to development plan production will be determined by the Council's performance in LDF production and against its forward programme, as set out in its Scheme.

The Council needs to make effective use of the period before commencement to develop its Local Development Scheme since:

- members need to become familiar with the new system so that they can:
  - consider how to take best advantage of the opportunities presented by the new system in the Mendip context
  - participate effectively in shaping the Council's Scheme;
- decisions need to be made regarding member involvement and decision making in the production of the LDF;
- project planning needs to be taken forward corporately with the involvement of relevant officers from all three Business Units;
- the Council needs to engage with the other Somerset authorities to explore the scope for collaborative working and the implications of this for the scheduling of Local Development Documents within each authority's Scheme;
- the Council needs to continue to work with the Mendip Strategic Partnership to ensure that the Community Strategy and LDF are taken forward together;
- work cannot formally commence on LDF production until the Scheme has been submitted to the Secretary of State; and
- this will assist the Council to optimise the size of future Planning Delivery Grant awards.

THE WAY FORWARD

The Project Planning Phase is critical with such a complex project and there is a need for the executive function to take the lead in planning the project, with the involvement and support of other members of the Council. Project planning needs to be taken forward corporately with the involvement of relevant officers from all three Business Units. It is considered most practical for the Corporate Finance and Resources

Portfolio Holder to lead this process and to report back to the Cabinet, following commencement of the Act, with a recommended draft Local Development Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

To note this report and that provision for this work has been made in the proposed Business Plans.

Contact Officer: Simon Eames
Ext No: 314

Background Papers

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill
- Draft Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
- Draft Town and Country Planning (Transitional Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2004
- Draft Planning Policy Statement 1: Creating Sustainable Communities, ODPM
- Draft Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks, ODPM
- Draft Town and Country Planning (Regional Planning) (England) Regulations 2004
- Draft Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Planning, ODPM
- "Creating Local Development Frameworks" Draft Guide on the process for preparing Local Development Frameworks, ODPM
- Local Development Frameworks: Draft Guide to Procedures and Code of Practice, ODPM
- "The Relationships between Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks", ODPM
- "Community Involvement in Planning: The Government's Objectives", ODPM

THE MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

AGENDA ITEM:7

FROM: Sara Skirton Date: 16th March 2004

SUBJECT: **Community Strategy for Mendip**

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 3 February 2004 the MSP Board approved a skeleton draft of a Community Strategy for Mendip.

1.2 Since then, the Multi Agency Task Group has been working to develop the document to a point where it is almost ready to be published for public consultation.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

2.1 The second draft of the Community Strategy is now presented to the MSP Board for consideration.

2.2 Following suggestions from a number of Board Members, and acknowledging that that there are links between all the themes, Officers have attempted to gather the 11 themes into three broad groups:

The first is about *our basic requirements* and includes

- Environment
- A place to live
- Energy and Waste
- Food

The second is about *our daily activities*:

- A job to do
- Ways to learn
- Things to do
- Getting around

The third group is about *feeling safe and staying well within cohesive communities:*

- Feeling safe
- Staying well
- Sense of community

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 If the Board approves the document, the intention is then to undertake final editing and arrange for it to be made widely and publicly available from early April 2004 until end of June 2004

3.2 The Communication Sub Group has discussed how the hard copy version should be presented and concluded that since it is a draft for comment, and therefore likely to change, it should be produced as a plain black and white document on recycled paper. The final, adopted Community Strategy will be presented in a more sophisticated format, with good use of colour and photographs. Both the draft and the final version will be made available electronically.

3.3 Work has been ongoing to develop the action plans to support the Strategy document. It has however become apparent that as agencies are at different stages with regards production and adoption of their action / business plans, it will not be possible to publish finalised action plans for the Community Strategy by 1 April 2003.

3.4 It is proposed that the Multi Agency Task Group continues to work at drawing together the action plans for the Community Strategy during the proposed consultation period for the draft Strategy of early April to end June 2004.

3.5 The intention remains that the finalised Community Strategy for Mendip, and its supporting action plan, be published in September 2004.

4. RECOMMENDATION

Board Members are asked to consider the second draft Community Strategy, with a view to it being made publicly and widely available for consultation by 1st April 2004, and:

- Agree any final amendments to the draft Community Strategy
- Agree the proposals in section 3 above for publishing the draft and developing the supporting action plans

Contact Officer: Sara Skirton
Tel: 01749 341340 skirtons@mendip.gov.uk

THE MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

AGENDA ITEM:8

FROM:	Roger Kershaw, Corporate Direct, Somerset County Council	Date: 16th March 2004
SUBJECT:	**Council Tax on Second Homes**	

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report brings to the attention of the LSP the decision to allocate the revenue raised on Council Tax on second homes to the LSP for each district area for spending against its key priority areas.

1.2 It also proposes a set of criteria for allocating that resource.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Local Government Act contains legislation to reduce the automatic half price discount that second house owners presently enjoy. Billing Authorities such as Mendip District Council can now levy up to 90% of the full tax rate.

2.2 Somerset County Council, together with all the District Councils, have agreed that the income generated from this levy should be earmarked for use by the local strategic partnership. However, the Avon and Somerset Police Authority did not make a similar agreement and so a proportion of that levy will not be available for use by the LSP.

2.3 This report sets out a way forward for the LSP to agree a mechanism for access to this funding.

2.4 The total additional funds estimated by Mendip District Council that will be available for the LSP to allocate is some £97,500. This excludes the Avon and Somerset Police element of £11,200. These amounts are dependant on the recovering rate of the tax.

3. APPLICATION OF THESE FUNDS BY MSP

3.1 The opportunity to allocate this money presents an excellent opportunity for the MSP to kick start a number of key projects within its area and to get some effective partnership working underway.

3.2 It would seem sensible to agree a set of criteria for the application of these resources. The proposed criteria is as follows:

- That the resources are applied either to LSP priorities as reflected in MSP's Community Strategy or those of the countywide Somerset Strategic Partnership.

- That they are not to be applied to replace existing Council spending.
- The LSP has to approve the planned expenditure.
- Given the decision by the Police Authority not to contribute their share of the resources to this proposal - that any community safety partnership based allocations maybe considered providing the Police Authority match these funds.

3.3 The allocations have to be of a pump priming nature given the potential volatility of this resource. As such, an exit strategy should be agreed for each of these projects to avoid the MSP being locked into ongoing funding arrangements.

3.4 Given that the County Council has allocated its share of these resources to the MSP it is proposed that a small sum (approximately £10,000) be earmarked for use by the SSP in developing our joint objective of promoting Somerset. This priority has been clearly sign posted within the SSP Vision and Community Strategy.

3.5 It is proposed that a sub group of the MSP be appointed to recommend spending proposals to the next meeting of the MSP.

3.6 The Finance Officers of the respective Local Authorities in Somerset have agreed a set of accounting arrangements to ensure the correct treatment of this money for the benefit of the LSPs. This includes progress reports to the MSP at every other meeting.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 That this LSP endorses the proposed criteria for allocating its resources as set out in this report.

4.2 That a sub group of the MSP be established to recommend spending proposals to the next MSP meeting against that criteria.

Contact Officer: Roger Kershaw
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THE MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

AGENDA ITEM:12

FROM: Stuart Merritt Date: 16th March 2004

SUBJECT: **Partnership Budget**

Up to March 2004 the following contributions have been received from Partners:

Somerset County Council	-	£4,200
Mendip District Council	-	£2,500
Mendip Housing Limited	-	£10,000

Expenditure of £39.13 was incurred on Board expenses last year (02/03). This left £16,660.87 available for 2003/4.

So far this year, the Board has incurred the following expenditure:

General Expenses – website design, printing, newsletters, mileage etc - £679.18

Projects – Expenditure on the Cake of Life consultation - £1755.06
The Board will recall that it agreed to underwrite the consultation exercise up to a sum of £2,000; this was not fully taken up.

The total currently available to the Board is therefore £ 14,216.63

Detailed accounts may be inspected by Board Members at any time at the Council's offices.

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