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**From:** "Newsham, Pamela" <newshamp@mendip.gov.uk>  
**To:** "Mendip LSP"

**Cc:**

**Sent:** 28 February 2007 12:01

**Attach:** taunton flyer final.pdf; 11VCS Policy Commission Workshop Notes.doc; 3 Minutes 28.11.06.doc; 6 Monitoring the five Priorities Action Plans.doc; 6a Notes and Actions of Monitoring Group - 16.02.07.doc; 7 LGC-HSJ sust communities award.doc; 8 MSP Funding Programme.doc; 8a BFSG notes 01.02.07.doc; 9 MSP Report - White Paper update.doc; Chair's presentation to Area Panel LAAMSP.doc; Climate Change press release.htm; 1 Agenda 6.03.07.doc

**Subject:** Mendip Strategic Partnership Board Meeting - 6th March 2007

Dear all

Attached are papers for the MSP Board Meeting to be held next Tuesday 6 March at 2.30pm. The venue is the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council offices.

The papers which should be attached are as follows:-

**AGENDA**

Item 3	Minutes of the previous Board Meeting held on 28 November 2006
Item 6	Monitoring the Five Priorities Action Plans
Item 6a	Monitoring Group notes 16 February 2007
Item 7	LGC/HSJ Sustainable Communities Awards
Item 8	MSP Funding Programme
Item 8a	BFSG notes 1 February 2007
Item 9	Local Government White Paper - Update
Item 11	Notes from Policy Commission workshop November 2006

Also attached for information are:

- A copy of the Chair's presentation to Somerset County Council's Mendip Area Panel
- A flyer for a seminar in Taunton entitled Negotiating with the Third Sector
- A press release about the LGC/HSJ Sustainable Communities Awards

**Can I just remind everyone that the meeting is scheduled for a **PROMPT 2.30pm** start.**

As ever, visitor parking is extremely limited here at the Council Offices due to alterations on site. Please be aware that parking anywhere other than in designated visitors' bays risks incurring a fine of £60.00. Can I make my usual plea that you park in Commercial Road Car Park which is just 5 minutes' walk away from the Offices (if you need any directions, please ask).

I look forward to seeing you all next week but if you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact either Sara Skirton on 01749 341340 ([skirtons@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:skirtons@mendip.gov.uk)) or myself.

Pam Newsham  
Policy Assistant  
(Community Planning and Consultation)

Direct Line: 01749 341651  
E-mail: [newshamp@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:newshamp@mendip.gov.uk)

Mendip District Council  
Cannards Grave Road



**Mendip Strategic Partnership**  
**Board Meeting 6 March 2007**  
**2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council**

**Agenda**

**1. Apologies**

**2. Public Participation**

**3. Minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2006**

**4. Leigh on Mendip Parish Plan**

Presentation from representatives of the Leigh on Mendip Parish Plan Steering Group

**5. Chairman's update** verbal report from the Chair on recent event and meetings attended

**6. Monitoring the Five Priorities Action Plans**

Notes of Monitoring Group meeting held on 16 February 2006

**7. LGC/HSJ Sustainable Communities Awards**

Report about the MSP being short listed in the Climate Change category of the awards

**8. MSP Funding Programme 2005/06, 2006/07 and MSP's own funds**

Report seeking approval of recommendations for allocation of remaining 2006/07 monies

**9. Local Government White Paper - Update**

Updating report from David Thomson, Chief Executive of MDC

**10. Mendip District Council Community Partnerships**

Feedback from any Board members who have recently attended MDC community partnerships

**11. Notes from Policy Commission workshop November 2006 for information**

**12. Local Community Planning Shepton 21**

Verbal updates for information on Shepton 21, Glastonbury Plan and Frome MCTi

**13. Any Other Business**

**14. Dates of future meetings**

To note that future MSP Board meeting dates for 2007 are 22 May, 18 September and 4 December. All to take place in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council offices at **2.30pm**

## Mendip Strategic Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Mendip Strategic Partnership held at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 28 November 2006 in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council

**PRESENT:**

Ron Ballantine	Chairman
Trevor Ashford	Somerset East Police District
Ian Bennett	Strode College
Pauline Clarke	Somerset County Council
Richard Dixon	Mendip Environment Forum – (Vice Chairman)
Andrew Freeman	Somerset County Council
Michael Hammond	Barnardos
Michelle Hawkes	Somerset Primary Care Trust
Elizabeth John	Mendip District Council
Sonia Pike	Mid Somerset CAB
Zena Pollard	Mendip Business Exchange
Tony Shepherd	Mendip Community Support
Harvey Siggs	Mendip District Council

### MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Brown	Business Manager – Corporate Finance and Resources
Pam Newsham	Policy Assistant
Sara Skirton	Team Leader - Community Planning and Communications
David Thomson	Chief Executive

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr Ken Maddock  
Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams  
Jenny Davies  
Menna Davies  
Jo Milling  
Malcolm Williams

Agenda Item Number	Details	Actioned by
1	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Penny Baker, Alan Brunt, Pat Champion, Nick Cottle, Stephen Fowler, Caroline Gamlin, Roger Kershaw, Scott McMillan, Amanda Meanwell, Linda Tucker, Ian Wallace and Nikki Watson.</p>	

2	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p>There were no matters on which members of the public wished to speak.</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of the Meeting on 26 September 2006</b></p> <p>Page 8 – Andrew Freeman requested that the following amendment be made:</p> <p>“Andrew Freeman confirmed that concerns will be voiced and <i>reviewed</i> when the LAA is refreshed and revisited in 2007”.</p> <p>This amendment having been made, the minutes were agreed as a correct record of proceedings.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	<p><b>PN</b></p>
4	<p><b>Somerset Advice Bureau</b></p> <p>A briefing paper on the work of the Mendip Citizens’ Advice Bureau had been previously circulated. Sonia Pike drew the Board’s attention to the valuable work undertaken by the CAB and the impact its work makes in the Mendip area. She highlighted the fact that the CAB offers a free, independent, confidential advice service providing impartial information, guidance and support to all individuals. She confirmed that as part of its day-to-day contact with clients, the service gathers data on social policy issues such as housing, levels of poverty, health and welfare. This information is collated nationally and used in producing reports and influencing policy makers. In this way, local trends can also be identified and monitored.</p> <p>In answer to a query from Michelle Hawkes, data regarding the number of migrant workers and clusters within the Mendip area is being captured and analysed and has led to the establishment of various support groups as well as the translation of publications and leaflets within CAB offices into other languages. Extensive research carried out in the South Somerset area has resulted in the production of a migrant worker Welcome Pack to help bridge language barriers, which will be developed across the whole of Somerset.</p> <p>The Chair commended the work of the CAB and reiterated the value of its membership within the Partnership. It was agreed that an annual presentation should be made to the final meeting of the year to the Board, highlighting any community trends and areas which would be of interest. In the meantime, Sonia extended an invitation for any interested parties to visit the Mid-Somerset CAB.</p>	<p><b>SP</b></p>

<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Mendip District Council Community Partnerships – Feedback from MSP Board Members</b></p> <p>The Chairman reminded the Board that the District Council has established Community Partnerships covering three areas in Mendip: Central, East and West. At a previous meeting, three Board Members had agreed to attend forthcoming meetings of each Community Partnership and the Chairman requested a verbal report on their initial impressions.</p> <p>Zena Pollard had attended the Central Mendip Community Partnership which had taken place on 21<sup>st</sup> November. She reported that although there was a fair representation of District Councillors and the general public, she felt that attendance could be improved by better publicity. She was particularly interested in the item relating to Shepton 21 and was pleased to note there were many opportunities for members of the public to participate if they wished.</p> <p>Richard Dixon was unfortunately unable to attend the East Mendip Community Partnership meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> October. The next meeting in January has had to be cancelled but Richard hopes to attend whenever it is re-arranged in the New Year. He has, however, taken the opportunity to re-introduce himself to the Community Partnership’s Chairman, Cllr Anne Page, who speaks enthusiastically about its work.</p> <p>Similarly, Tony Shepherd had been unable to attend the West Mendip Community Partnership Meeting scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> October due to its cancellation. He hopes to attend the next meeting planned for 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007.</p> <p>It was agreed that publicising these meetings and creating general interest and support has caused difficulty but the Board was pleased to note that Menna Davies, the Council’s Senior Communications Officer was present and hoped that she might be able to put some promotional ideas forward to the Council.</p> <p>Stuart Brown explained that the whole development process for the recently introduced Community Partnerships will be reviewed over the coming months and all examples of good practice will be disseminated across all three. In answer to a query from Inspector Trevor Ashford, he confirmed that invitations to attend are extended to all key partners, including the police and health professionals. In common with their Area Board predecessors, representation at Community Partnerships tends to occur at a local operational level.</p>	<p><b>RD</b></p> <p><b>TS</b></p>
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<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>SCC – Proposal for Localisation and the Role of Frontline Councillors</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Alan Jones, Chief Executive and Cllr Paul Buchanan, Deputy Leader of Somerset County Council to the meeting to expand upon the key elements of the County Council's 'Localisation and Frontline Councillors' Paper previously circulated.</p> <p>Cllr Buchanan outlined the plans that the County Council is working on in its efforts to engage more closely with communities and stressed the importance of the last paragraph of the paper. This clearly states the County's objective to "<i>...seek to delegate and devolve as much of its funding and decision making as possible to the area and community level. This will include the power to influence and direct policy, define service delivery priorities, structures and spending. This will further strengthen the power and influence of local communities and the front line councillors who serve them</i>". In return, this involves the Councillor becoming much more active in engaging with the local community and thus being much more able to comprehensively represent that local community. Localised forums or area panels will provide a platform for the devolution of budgets and service decisions to front line councillors as well as to key local partners such as Parish and Town Councils. It is envisaged that, initially, funding at an amount equivalent to £15,000 per County Councillor will be made available to each area panel to secure identified priorities and outcomes. It was foreseen that these area panels and the District LSPs would align their work around the local implementation of the Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>Discussion followed and the Board expressed their desire for the County Council to recognise the good partnerships which exist already in Mendip and which act as effective forums for local communities. The Board welcomed any proposals that improved engagement and involvement of local communities, as long as they also avoided duplication of resources and structures.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Jones and Cllr Buchanan for their explanation and for giving Members a deeper understanding of the issues involved.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Somerset County Council Community Development Team Role</b></p> <p>Andrew Freeman thanked the Board for the opportunity to formally introduce himself as the SCC Community Development Officer responsible for the Mendip area and highlighted key areas of the paper already circulated. The main aim of the Community Development Team is to work with key local partners, to act as the primary point of contact between District and Parish/Town Councils and the County Council and whose activities will have a</p>	

	<p>particular emphasis on achieving the outcomes set out within the Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>In addition to their specific Local Strategic Partnership area responsibilities, each Community Development Office will have a responsibility for a particular cross-cutting theme or project across the whole of Somerset; Andrew is responsible for the strategic development of services and support for carers.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Andrew for the clarification of his role and responsibilities.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>MSP Future Developments</b></p> <p>A detailed report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Sara Skirton reported that an opportunity had been taken to take stock of changing circumstances and to review how the MSP is responding to this altering environment. The achievements of the MSP so far have culminated in the identification of five priorities, formulation of an action plan, development of outcome measures and the publication of a Community Strategy. Opportunities currently exist for greater linkages with Mendip District Council's new corporate direction, being the focus for priority and delivery of the Local Area Agreement and responding to the proposals in the recently published Local Government White Paper – 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'.</p> <p>In this connection, Sara has produced a timeline where actions can be reviewed over a six-, twelve- and eighteen-month period resulting in a renewed Sustainable Community Strategy. The MSP is anxious to take a proactive approach, seeking clarity on the impacts of the White Paper, the LAA, the County Council's localisation proposals, the District Council's Local Development Framework, partner priorities, consultation data, intelligence, economic picture and changes to partner organisations. In this connection, it is recommended that a discussion forum or workshop should take place early in 2007 to consider the complicated and challenging times which lie ahead.</p> <p>In answer to a query from Richard Dixon, Sara reported that it is custom and practice to review only action plans annually but that it will be necessary to ensure the Community Strategy is truly sustainable and totally comprehensive over the next 18 months.</p> <p>Sara will try to discover national data on the allocation of Second Homes money by local authorities. She will provide more details of this national context either at the next Board meeting or at the workshop, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Sara for her comprehensive report and it was agreed that a workshop be set up early in 2007.</p>	<p><b>SS</b></p> <p><b>SS</b></p>

<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Monitoring the Five Priorities Action Plans</b></p> <p>Sara Skirton reported that the Monitoring Group has met recently on 16<sup>th</sup> November and considered detailed presentations of its action plans. Key actions have been flagged up on the first pages of the monitoring group notes which had been circulated previous to the meeting.</p> <p>The Partnership was pleased to note the good progress being made. A full report of actions plans is available either in printed or electronic form if any members require more detail.</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>MSP Funding Programme 2005/06, 2006/07 and MSP's Own Funds</b></p> <p>A paper on the funding programme has already been circulated for the Board's information. It was agreed that the Budget and Finance Sub-Group should meet early in February to review the previous year's funding and to ensure that appropriate allocation of funds continues.</p>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Shepton 21 Update</b></p> <p>Zena Pollard reported that Paul Frampton is now the Chair of the group. An Executive has been formed to manage implementation of the town plans and is chaired by Cllr Harvey Siggs.</p> <p>Shepton 21 has continued work on three main strands: the Chamber of Commerce has reinvigorated itself and is currently working on the town centre project to revitalise the High Street and the business community; linking villages back into the town and linking business with the town, for example, extending the East Somerset Railway into Shepton Mallet; the flagship project is CATEC 'Community Advice, Training and Enterprise Centre' – a facility which is seen as vital for the well-being of the community. The Regional Development Agency has requested a spatial analysis be carried out to try to identify the most appropriate location for this Centre.</p>	
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Glastonbury SRB</b></p> <p>Sonia Pike reported that the Glastonbury SRB project is, to all intents and purposes, complete and has culminated in a final Glastonbury Town Plan. There remains the final question of linkage between the end of the SRB programme and the opening of the Morlands Site.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the Town Plan will be reviewed under the auspices of West Mendip Community Partnership. However, if this is not the case, it will be brought before the MSP Board at least annually.</p>	

<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>a)</b></p> <p><b>b)</b></p> <p><b>c)</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Zena Pollard had attended the Somerset in Business Conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, an event which had been organised by the Somerset Strategic Partnership. She was disappointed at the lack of businesses attending and therefore the lack of opportunity for business networking. She has requested any minutes of the meeting and an attendance list from the SSP.</p> <p>Cllr Pauline Clarke was pleased to report that the Interactive Skills Festival at the Bath &amp; West Showground had been very well attended by over 4,000 young people over the two days of the event.</p> <p>As part of the Regenerating the Mendip Economy priority, a key action was to produce an Economic Strategy. Copies of the consultation draft were distributed amongst partners and comments and feedback are invited by 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Georgina Dickens at Mendip District Council.</p>	
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Dates of Future Meetings</b></p> <p>It is proposed that MSP Board meeting dates for 2007 are: 6<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> December. Discussion took place on the proposed starting time of 2.30 pm and it was agreed that the first two meetings of the new calendar year should commence at this time. If the agendas are not as full as anticipated and the meetings finish well before 5.00 pm, consideration will be given to reverting to a 3.00 pm start.</p>	

The meeting finished at 4.50 pm

# The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item: 6

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FROM: MSP Monitoring Group Date: 6 March 2007

SUBJECT: **Monitoring the five Priority Action Plans**

## 1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 16 February 2007 the Monitoring Group met to consider progress updates from the nominated lead or representative for each MSP Priority. The notes of this meeting accompany this report as Appendix A.

1.2 The Group agreed that the leads for each of the five Priorities should be asked to undertake a review of their action plans to ensure that they are up to date, relevant and reflect the work of the Priority sub group.

1.3 The intention is that a refreshed suite of action plans is brought before the MSP Board in May 2007 for approval.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members of the MSP Board are asked to note progress on each of the five MSP Priorities.

Contact: Sara Skirton 01749 341340  
[skirtons@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:skirtons@mendip.gov.uk)



**Notes of the Monitoring Group Meeting  
held 16 March 2007, 10.30 am  
at Mendip District Council**

Present from MSP: Richard Dixon (Vice Chair), Michelle Hawkes,  
Tony Shepherd

Present from MDC: Sarah Guscott, Jo Milling, Pam Newsham, Sara Skirton,  
Jennie Wheeler

Apologies: Ron Ballantine, Andrew Freeman, Allison Herbert,  
Mark Holden, Roger Kershaw, Norma Underwood

**ACTIONS**

(full notes attached at page 3)

Action	By whom
<b>Matters Arising</b>	
<b>Affordable Decent Housing For All</b>	
Potential awareness raising event to launch the Multi-Agency Toolkit	Sara Skirton to seek the view of the MSP Chairman
<b>Tackling Climate Change Locally</b>	
To investigate the possibility of holding a lunchtime training session for Councillors and Officers on the implications of climate change, offered by the Energy Saving Trust	Jo Milling to seek the views of the MSP Chairman
<b>Investing in Children and Young People</b>	
Increasing youth representation on Parish Councils	Sara Skirton agreed to investigate the possibility of tabling an item on a future agenda of the Somerset Association of Local Councils
Invitation to a local Youth MP to make a presentation at a future MSP Board Meeting	Sara Skirton to liaise with Mark Holden

Priority Action Report	Sara Skirton to liaise with Mark Holden over including other relevant activities in the revised Children and Young People priority report
<b>Refreshing Priority Action Plans</b>	
Actions, achievements and targets to be completely revisited, assessed for relevance and amended as necessary	Priority leads to provide Sara Skirton with revised documents by the end of April
<b>Outcome Measures</b>	
Priority leads to review their draft outcome measures	Priority leads to provide Sara Skirton with baseline information by early summer



**Notes of the Monitoring Group Meeting  
held 16 March 2007, 10.30 am  
at Mendip District Council**

Present from MSP: Richard Dixon (Vice Chair), Michelle Hawkes,  
Tony Shepherd

Present from MDC: Sarah Guscott, Jo Milling, Pam Newsham, Sara Skirton,  
Jennie Wheeler

Apologies: Ron Ballantine, Andrew Freeman, Allison Herbert,  
Mark Holden, Roger Kershaw, Norma Underwood

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Vice Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and round-table introductions were made.

**2. Notes of Monitoring Group Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November**

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of proceedings.

The Vice-Chairman requested clarification of any matters arising from the previous notes and action points which would not be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

- Tony Shepherd reported that the consortium of which Mendip Community Support is a member has submitted a tender for a contract with Somerset County Council to manage its volunteers. The outcome is awaited.
- Tony has received approaches from several voluntary organisations expressing an interest in becoming Community Interest Companies. Best advice will be given regarding the individual suitability of this option.
- Richard Dixon reported that he had attended the Policy Commission Event held on 29<sup>th</sup> November together with Tony Shepherd and Sonia Pike. A report was produced by the Community Council for Somerset, a copy of which will be an agenda item for the next meeting of the Mendip Strategic Partnership.

- Jo Milling reported that she has passed responsibility for making contact with the Bath and Wells Diocesan representative to the Community Choices for Sustainable Living team. County-wide environmental issues are being co-ordinated by the Somerset Case Officer who is working closely through the church on the “Go Green” project in four villages – Pilton, North Wootton, Croscombe and Dinder.
- Sara Skirton will investigate the channels for tabling an item at a future meeting of the Somerset Association of Local Councils for increasing youth representation on Parish Councils.
- Elections for the UK Youth Parliament have been held recently. Sara will find out the names of the newly-elected Youth MPs for Somerset through Mark Holden with a view to inviting one of them to speak at a future MSP Board meeting.
- Mark Holden has submitted a detailed work plan relating to Phase 2 of the Children and Young People participation project. This has been incorporated into the revised action plan and will be discussed further at the appropriate stage of the meeting.
- Work still continues on creating a database of consultation activities by the MSP partner organisations. More information is awaited, particularly from the Police, and the project may be reinvigorated as it forms part of the remit of the Council’s Consultation Officer, Gabriel Munns.

### **3. Progress Update on each Priority Action Plan**

#### Affordable Decent Housing For All

Jennie Wheeler highlighted some of the main points contained in the updated action plan which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Work with other Districts in Somerset continues on moving towards a unified housing IT system in order that clients can access strategic housing issues across Somerset.

Progress is being made on moving forwards to choice-based lettings and it is hoped the system will be implemented across the whole of Somerset by December 2008.

Jennie was pleased to report that Councillor Philip Gait now attends meetings of the Commissioning Body for Supporting People as a Shadow Member.

The Group noted that there will be no new capital funding available after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 but that the 2-year rolling programme of provision of affordable

housing will continue until March 2008. The Group confirmed it will closely observe this issue and make any representations to the District Council as appropriate.

Work continues on identifying a suitable site for a Young Peoples' Foyer in the Street/Glastonbury/Wells area in order to bid for capital and revenue funding from Supporting People for Supported Housing.

Phil Miller continues to encourage Preferred Developers to provide affordable housing. In this connection, Jennie drew the Group's attention to an issue in the Local Development Framework. The Council will be seeking to include a stipulated threshold of 40% affordable housing on any sites although other local authorities are working on a threshold of 35%. Financial feasibility studies will need to be carried out on future sites and, potentially, developers could prefer to work in other areas of the county rather than with Mendip.

On the subject of the Multi-Agency Toolkit, Michelle Hawkes reported that the Project Officer, Ian Croxford, is now in post. Both Michelle and Jo Milling sit on the Project Steering Group. This is a 1 year project to produce an easily accessible web based toolkit to develop a more co-ordinated and resource effective approach to multi-agency working across Mendip. However, there is a potential shortfall in development funds of approximately £6,000. Ian is currently trying to seek alternative sources of funding and will be meeting with Mark Stone at Somerset County Council and with representatives of MACOC. If, however, alternative funding streams cannot be sourced, Sara Skirton suggested that it might be appropriate to submit a bid for funding to the MSP in the new financial year.

Michelle put forward the idea of holding an event to raise partner organisations' awareness of the toolkit's capabilities and intended outcomes, celebrating good practice as well as launching the toolkit. She suggested that this item be discussed at a future meeting of the MSP Board in order to seek members' views on such an event.

Tony Shepherd expressed his concern that the project may be extending its brief beyond that originally envisaged. He mentioned that some difficulties may be experienced in keeping the toolkit's database up-to-date in terms of financial and staffing resource and obtaining information from its partners. There were also concerns expressed over possible duplication of information and effort by voluntary and community organisations. Jo confirmed that the Project Officer is currently carrying out a scoping exercise to determine where the boundaries of the project actually lie.

The Chairman thanked Jennie for her comprehensive update.

## Tackling Climate Change Locally

Jo Milling was pleased to report that the Mendip Strategic Partnership's work has been shortlisted for a Local Government Chronicle sustainable communities Tackling Climate Change award. Jo, Richard Dixon, Cllrs McKay and Maddock will be attending the ceremony in London at the end of March.

A draft Climate Change Strategy has been circulated to MSP Board Members for comment by 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has now carried out 16 audits on partners' buildings throughout the district and 2 full reports have been received, the results of which have still to be analysed. With regard to the public awareness raising strand of the project, 7 events have already taken place with a further 4 planned.

A "Go Green" fair and public meeting is being held in Glastonbury on 23<sup>rd</sup> February with a similar event being planned for Frome.

A Community Choices for Sustainable Living training event for community champions is being held in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. It is expected that around 20 people will be attending.

Somerset County Council have received a grant from Defra's Climate Challenge Fund to run "Rising to the Challenge" – a climate change communications campaign. The campaign will raise awareness of what climate change is, what it means for Somerset and will run a wide range of events for schools and young people, businesses and the local community. The project will finish in February 2008.

Jo drew the Group's attention to a free half-day's training session offered by the Energy Saving Trust which is available to Councillors or Senior Officers on the implications of climate change. It may also be of interest to Service Managers and members of the Mendip Strategic Partnership. The offer of support has to be taken up by 31<sup>st</sup> March and Jo will investigate the possibility of holding a lunch-time event prior to the Mendip Strategic Partnership Board Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

## Strengthening the Voluntary and Community Sector

Tony Shepherd reported that Mendip Community Support has appointed two members of staff on a job-share basis.

A draft of the Community Newsletter has been produced and will be printed within the next two weeks.

A voluntary and community sector forum entitled "Pride in Mendip" will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> March in the Council Chamber of Mendip District Council. So far, 19 organisations have indicated they will be attending with more acceptances

expected nearer the time. MCS are running a competition for voluntary and community groups, offering a winner's prize of £100 and a runner-up prize of £50. Groups are invited to provide a brief description and photograph of their organisation's work and all entries will be displayed at the Pride in Mendip Forum.

The regular programme of monthly forums in the district's market towns continues.

### Regenerating the Mendip Economy

In the absence of the lead officer, Allison Herbert, Sara provided a verbal update on the progress report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The draft Economic Strategy was published for consultation just before Christmas and comments received are being incorporated where appropriate. The final document will be taken before a future MSP Board Meeting for endorsement.

Work on the feasibility study on the East Somerset Railway is about to commence, a quote from Atkins Rail having now been received.

The Group was interested in the report provided by Allison on the Mendip Business Life website project and the action undertaken by MACOC to date.

### Investing in Children and Young People

In the absence of Mark Holden, Sara drew the Group's attention to the revised format of the updated draft action plan. The premise for revising the document was to bring the Group up to date on the progress of those projects funded by the MSP and on which the MSP was able to exert direct influence. The main focus will be around the participation project which has been funded for two years by the MSP. The plan describes how the outcomes from the participation project will be taken forward and incorporated into the service planning process for various agencies involved in providing services for children and young people. The draft action plan still has to be taken before the Children and Young Peoples' Area Planning Group for formal ratification. It is felt that the document now reflects ongoing activity and will be more relevant for review by the MSP.

Jennie Wheeler expressed her concern that the action plan is now very limited around the participation project. She drew the Group's attention to the amount of work being carried out county-wide but which does not seem to be linked cohesively.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Sara would liaise with Mark Holden over the incorporation of other actions, particularly those surrounding MDC's involvement in the production of a Play Strategy.

#### **4. Refreshing Priority Action Plans**

Sara reported that work on this has begun, as illustrated by the revised Children and Young People's Action Plan. Whilst the Community Strategy will be reviewed every three years, the Action Plans are to be reviewed annually. She requested that all leads for their priority groups review their action plan and check for relevance; assess the achievements and remove as necessary; and also add more actions as appropriate for the next 18 months. It is intended to take a refreshed suite of action plans to the May meeting of the MSP Board and Sara requested revised documents by the end of April. Sara would be pleased to offer advice and guidance as necessary.

#### **5. Progress Towards Developing Outcome Measures**

Sara requested that each priority lead reviews their draft outcome measures to decide whether more work is required on refining them. The importance of obtaining baseline data for future performance comparison was agreed and the process needs to be moved forward. Again, Sara would be pleased to offer assistance as required.

#### **6. March MSP Board – Reports From Monitoring Group**

Sara Skirton reported that normal practice has been to attach monitoring reports to the agenda for MSP Board Meetings. Bearing in mind the earlier agreement to revamp each priority's action plan to make them more meaningful, it was agreed that for the next MSP Board Meeting, only the notes from the Monitoring Group Meeting would be included. It was also agreed that it would not be necessary to ask representatives or leads from each priority group to attend the next Board Meeting.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.15 pm.

# The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item: 7

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FROM: Jo Milling, Senior Policy Officer –  
Community Planning, MDC Date: 6 March 2007

SUBJECT: **LGC/HSJ Sustainable Communities Awards – MSP shortlisted for its “Tackling Climate Change Locally” Action Plan**

## 1. SUMMARY

The Mendip Strategic Partnership Action Plan to “tackle climate change locally” has been short listed for the LGC/HSJ’s prestigious national Sustainable Communities Award. The Action Plan was selected as one of 4 out of 22 entries in the Tackling Climate Change category. The winners will be announced on 28<sup>th</sup> March at the awards ceremony in London

The Action Plan has initiated a number of projects which aim to deliver carbon savings at the local level and provide strategic direction for the diverse range of organisations and activities involved.

Projects which have resulted from the Action Plan process are;

- Preparation of a Climate Change Strategy for Mendip area, looking at the mitigation and adaptation measures relevant to organisations represented on the Strategic Partnership. This was recently made available to Board members for comment and will form the basis of an action planning process later in the year.
- Mendip Partnership for Energy, which is a programme of energy auditing for public buildings belonging to the District Council, County Council, Primary Care Trust and Police within the district, along with a public campaign promoting energy efficiency. The project seeks innovative ways of saving carbon by working together.
- Community Choices for Sustainable Living, which is a project supporting local voluntary groups and individuals to take action on the environment. It is recruiting “community champions”, supporting group action and providing information through the preparation of a local information pack.

The Action Plan provides a framework for all the partner organisations within the District to tackle climate change in their own activities. It is very much part of an ongoing process. Significant progress has been made since its adoption in December 2005.

Contact: Jo Milling [millingj@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:millingj@mendip.gov.uk) 01749 341569

# The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item: 8

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FROM: Team Leader – Community Planning, Mendip District Council Date: 6 March 2007

SUBJECT: **MSP Funding Programme 2005/06, 2006/07 and MSP's own funds**

## **1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Budget and Finance Sub Group (BFSG) of the MSP met on 1 February 2007 to:

- Review the 2005/06 spending programme
- Make recommendations for how the remaining 2006/07 funds should be allocated

1.2 The notes from this meeting are attached as Appendix A to this report.

## **2. REVIEW OF SECOND HOMES MONIES 2005/06**

2.1 The BFSG had received reports relating to the following projects supported by 2005/06 second homes monies:

- PCSOs for Glastonbury and Frome
- Community Choices for Sustainable Living (STSD)
- Mendip Partnership for Energy (CSE)
- CAB Frome Outreach Work
- Children and Young People Participation Project

2.2 The Group found the reports to be satisfactory. Copies can be provided to Board members on request.

## **3. SECOND HOMES MONIES AVAILABLE TO THE MSP FOR 2006/07**

3.1 The MSP had £103,058 to allocate in this current financial year.

3.2 At the last Board meeting allocations totalling £82,070.50 were agreed. This left £20,987.50 to be allocated in 2006/07.

3.3 Two projects, Phase 2 of the Mendip Participation Project and a project to set up an environmental Community Interest Company (CIC), had been previously considered

by the BFSG. The participation project was initially awarded £18,068. No award was made to the CIC project at that time as it was felt that a more detailed proposal was required.

3.4 At its meeting on 1 February, the BFSG considered a proposal to extend the duration and scope of the participation project and a revised proposal for funding towards setting up a CIC.

3.5 The BFSG made recommendations to fund these projects as shown in table A below:

**Table A**

Partner	Project	BFSG Rec.
<b>Barnardos / Mendip Area Planning Group</b>	Extend participation project to March 2008	£3,726
<b>Chair of Mendip Environment Forum</b>	To set up a Community Interest Company	£20,000
	<b>Total</b>	£23,726

3.6 As the sum of the recommendations is, at £23,726, greater than the total of the remaining 2006/07 monies, it was agreed to recommend that the shortfall of £2,738.50 be met from the MSP's own, non-second homes monies.

3.7 The BFSG has also received requests for financial support from the following:

- Glastonbury Community Development Trust (CDT) - West Mendip Opportunities Project
- Mendip CAB – Mendip Domestic Abuse Project

3.8 The BFSG recommended that these projects be advised that all monies for 2006/07 are now allocated and to consider resubmitting proposals in 2007/08, if support was still being sought.

**4. THE MSP'S OWN FUNDS**

4.1 The MSP currently has £15,840 of its own 'non-second homes' monies. If the MSP agrees the recommendations in section 5 below, then £13,101.50 will remain.

**5. RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 Board members are asked to agree the recommendations from the BFSG:

- to approve the awards as set out in table A above
- subject to agreeing the previous recommendation, to agree that the shortfall of £2728.50 be met from MSP's own non-second homes monies
- that Glastonbury CDT and Mendip CAB be advised that they could resubmit proposals in 2007/08

Contact: Sara Skirton 01749 341340 [skirtons@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:skirtons@mendip.gov.uk)



**Budget and Finance Sub Group  
of the Mendip Strategic Partnership  
Notes of the Meeting Held 1st February 2007  
at Wells Town Hall**

Present from MSP: Ron Ballantine (Chair), Trevor Ashford, Richard Dixon, Tony Shepherd

Present from MDC: Jo Milling, Pam Newsham, Sara Skirton

Apologies: Ian Bennett, Nick Cottle, Sarah Guscott, Richard Kershaw, Peter McKenzie

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b> The Chair opened the meeting and apologies were noted.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Review of 2004/05 and 2005/06 Second Homes Monies</b> Reports detailing 2004/05 'research' monies and 2005/06 monies claimed, together with progress reports received to date, had previously been circulated.</p> <p>In answer to a query relating to the 2004/05 award of £4,000 to SERC/Somerset Biodiversity Steering Group, Richard Dixon briefly updated the Group on his attendance at the Somerset Biodiversity Steering Group meetings. This Group is jointly co-ordinated by Somerset County Council and the Somerset Environmental Records Centre. SERC in association with the Somerset Wildlife Trust have assisted in reviews of the Mendip Local Biodiversity Action Plan and a meeting is being arranged in order to seek Mendip District Council's endorsement of their recommendations.</p> <p>In summary, all funds for 2004/2005 have been claimed.</p> <p>Turning to the funding programme for 2005/2006, Sara Skirton updated the Group on the ways in which the total amount of £121,490 has been committed. Progress reports and final reports for a number of the projects had already been circulated. Members will note that an uncommitted sum of £1,555 has been carried forward to 2006/2007.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his gratitude for the reports and for the clarity of the information provided by Sara Skirton.</p>	

3.	<p><b>Funds Available to MSP</b></p> <p>As outlined in the report previously circulated, a total of £20,987.50 second homes monies remain to be committed by the end of March 2007 but which need not necessarily be spent until the end of March 2008. The Group is also asked to note that the MSP has funds of its own totalling just under £16,000.</p> <p>Sara reported that she is not anticipating any shortfalls in expenditure and that all projects are moving forward.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Allocation of Remaining 2006/07 Second Homes Monies</b></p> <p>The BFSG reviewed a report previously circulated and considered each request for funding in turn. The total value of the bids received is at least £31,000, rising to a potential £60,000 - £80,000.</p> <p>The Board considered bids which had originally been discussed at the previous BFSG meeting in August 2006, namely setting up a Mendip Environment Community Interest Company, together with an extension to the duration of the Children and Young People Participation Project.</p> <p>a) <u>Community Interest Company</u></p> <p>Jo Milling spoke in support of this application and responded to several queries from the Group. She pointed out there are a number of projects and groups already working in Mendip on environmental initiatives and considerable interest from the community in developing initiatives to tackle climate change. Jo explained that the Mendip Environment Forum, whilst being at the forefront of implementing the “Tackling Climate Change Locally” Action Plan, is a voluntary grouping of community organisations without legal status, funding or resources of its own. Therefore, funding of £20,000 is sought to enable the Mendip Environment Forum to develop into a Community Interest Company. This would become the vehicle by which climate change initiatives could be progressed and, in effect, provide advice, support and a collective voice for local voluntary organisations with an environmental focus. A project worker could be employed by the CIC part-time for 1 year in order to develop the organisation and generate funding streams from external sources such as the Big Lottery Fund.</p> <p>In addition, there is also a need to develop an ongoing source of support to build on the excellent work carried out by the Community Choices for Sustainable Living project, but the MSP grant for which is due to end in the summer of 2007.</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed to <b>RECOMMEND</b> that £20,000 be awarded to fund the formation of a Community Interest Company.</p>	

<p>b) <u>Investing in Children and Young People - Extension of Participation Project</u></p> <p>Sara has received a proposal from Michael Hammond of Barnardos who wishes to apply for an additional £3,726 in order to extend the participation project beyond its scheduled end in October 2007 until the end of March 2008. From April 2008, the other Locality Managers in Mendip should be in place and learning will be able to be handed over to them.</p> <p>The Group considered this request for additional funding but was mindful of the fact that just £987.50 remained available for allocation. If it agreed to the awarding of £3,726 to extend the participation project, this would leave a shortfall of £2,738.50. Discussion centred around drawing down the necessary funds from the MSP's own reserves and it was noted that no confirmation had yet been received from Somerset County Council regarding the level of second homes council tax monies to be allocated to LSPs in the new financial year.</p> <p>It was agreed to <b>RECOMMEND</b> that the sum of £2,738.50 be awarded to the Investing in Children and Young People Participation Project and that sufficient funds be drawn down from MSP reserves to meet this commitment.</p> <p>c) <u>Glastonbury Community Development Trust</u></p> <p>A bid has been received from the Glastonbury Community Development Trust, which is seeking £7,000 of match funding from the MSP to support their current Rural Renaissance project, and a briefing paper has been previously circulated.</p> <p>Bearing in mind that all MSP funds for the current year have now been fully allocated, it was <b>AGREED</b> that the Trust be informed of this fact. The Group made it clear it would be prepared to give consideration to such a bid if it were to be re-submitted in the next financial year along with any others received.</p> <p>d) <u>Mendip Domestic Abuse Project, Mendip CAB</u></p> <p>Mendip CAB is seeking financial support towards the Mendip Domestic Abuse Project. Current funding comes to an end on 31 March 2007 so new funding sources are being explored for 2007/08. The project requires a minimum of £30,000 and a maximum of £50,000. The CAB would welcome any match funding from the MSP.</p>	<p>SS</p>
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	<p>Bearing in mind that all MSP funds for the current year have now been fully allocated, it was <b>AGREED</b> that the CAB be informed of this fact. The Group made it clear it would be prepared to give consideration to such a bid if it were to be re-submitted in the next financial year along with any others received.</p> <p>If a similar amount of second homes monies is allocated for 2007/2008, the Group felt it would be beneficial to hold another meeting earlier in the new financial year to consider further funding of the five priorities, together with any other bids received.</p> <p><b>All recommendations for funding will be subject to ratification by the MSP Board.</b></p>	SS
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Sara reported that Frome has been awarded £20,000 as part of its acceptance into the 'Market &amp; Coastal Towns Initiative' which could help to fund a new town vision for Frome and the creation of a community plan. Sara circulated a paper prepared by the Council's Area Regeneration Officer and highlighted the fact that a bid for match funding under the MCTi process may be submitted in the next financial year.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11.05am.</p>	

# The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item: 9

FROM: Chief Executive - Mendip District Council Date: 6 March 2007

SUBJECT: **Local Government White Paper - Update**

<b>Summary:</b>	The Department for Communities and Local Government has released its Local Government White Paper, called Strong and Prosperous Communities. The closing date for applications to restructure was 25 <sup>th</sup> January. This report is to update the partnership on recent activity.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	The Partnership is asked to note the current situation.
<b>Links to Priorities and Impact on service Plans:</b>	The proposals to implement different council structures in Somerset could impact on all of the Council's priorities and service plans, and would result in changes to the structures for Local Strategic Partnerships, such as the Mendip Strategic Partnership.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Department for Communities and Local Government has released its Local Government White Paper, called Strong and Prosperous Communities. This was published at the end of October. This report is to update the Partnership on recent activity. There may be more information available at the meeting.

## BACKGROUND

2. The White Paper included an Invitation to Councils in England to either:-
  - make proposals for future unitary structures, or
  - pioneer, as pathfinders, new two-tier models
3. Set out below are some of the key decision dates, both past and future. However, members should be aware at key stages the process might go in a different direction (ie a bid might be rejected) or the government respond to some other initiative to provide improved two tier working. At the moment, the timetable does rather read with a degree of inevitability to it, even though this is not the intention.
  - a) on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2007, South Somerset agreed their case to bid for two unitary authorities for the area of the County. The first, in East Somerset,

covers the area of Mendip and South Somerset. The second will cover the remaining Councils in the west of Somerset.

- b) The County Council's case for a bid for unitary authority status over the whole of the County area was considered and approved at their full Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007.
- c) All of the other district councils have met and have opposed both bids for unitary status across Somerset, preferring to support an enhanced method of operation, known as Team Somerset.
- d) The Government will announce which proposals will proceed to the next stage at the end of March 2007. We know there will be a limit on the numbers because of the financial implications of change. This stage will include twelve week's consultation by the Government with 'partners and stakeholders' in the areas affected.
- e) On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007, there will be District and Parish elections across Somerset.
- f) The Government intends to announce at the end of July 2007, which areas will be accepted for unitary authority status and can proceed to implementation.
- g) Elections to future unitary councils (this may or may not include any options in Somerset) will be held in May 2008, permitting any new structures to be fully operational by April 2009 at the latest.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4. The White Paper sets out the Government's proposals for future legislation, as such it is not a consultative document, but neither does it carry any legal power. However, the Invitation to Councils had a deadline of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007. Preliminary Views will be announced by Government in March 2007, and a final view taken at the end of July 2007. If the Government decides to proceed to a new structure, there will be elections in May 2008 and a full implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 for the new authorities that are agreed.
- 5. The proposal for either one or two unitary councils for the area currently covered by Somerset County Council would require the abolition of the County Council and the abolition of the 5 District Councils, to be replaced by one or two new entities. Town and Parish Councils would not be directly affected by this change in structure.
- 6. A Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill with supporting legislation has been produced in draft form and is under consideration by Parliament.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 7. Members are asked to note the current situation.

Contact Officer: David Thomson  
Ext No: 201  
**Background Papers: none**

## Agenda Item 11

VCS Policy Commission Workshop, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006

### General Conclusions:

- LSPs support the Commission's work and are up for driving forward the recommendations
- Need to recognise that, in doing so, LSPs need to plan "for an uncertain future".
- The recommendations are relevant whatever the shape of future structures.
- LSPs have a key role in taking forward the recommendations in partnership with their wide constituency of interest.
- LSPs want to see action and to hold the Policy Commission and its members to account for implementing the recommendations

### Specific Conclusions:

- LSPs to take policy commission recommendations back to the next meeting of the LSP
- LSPs have two significant and relevant roles:

Enabling Role	"Commissioning" Role
"significant and relevant" representation at LSPs as partners with equal weight to other partners	Ensuring that the baseline and continuing information required to measure progress with the recommendations is made available
Enabling debate at LSPs about how the wider VCS is represented and enabled to make its voice heard to the LSP	LSP as vehicle for agreeing targets and priorities for VCS funding
Ensuring all forms of opinion are represented in the development of the community strategy and the VCS role in implementing that strategy	Ensuring that service delivery reflects these targets and priorities
Ensuring that VCS representation is strategic and not about the views of one organisation	
Facilitating the development of infrastructure to reflect the recommendations of the policy commission	

- Quarterly LSP Chairs' meeting to have this as a regular agenda item
- CCS to organise meeting of VCS representatives on all Somerset LSPs (paid for by SCC) before next Policy Commission meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007
- LSPs will take leadership role and act as "critical friend" in the implementation of the recommendations

## MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

### A Community Strategy for Mendip

Eleven Themes identified  
by Public Consultation

Five Priorities Selected for Action

Environment

*Tackling Climate Change Locally*

A Place to Live

*Affordable Decent Housing for All*

Energy and Waste

*Regenerating the Mendip Economy*

Food

*Investing in Children and Young People*

A Job to Do

*Strengthening the Voluntary &  
Community Sector*

Ways to Learn

Things to Do

Getting Around

Feeling Safe

Staying Well

Sense of Community

Note that the Somerset Strategic Partnership and the five Local Strategic Partnerships had adopted, or were about to, their local Community Strategies before Somerset had adopted the guidance for the Local Area Agreement, with its four blocks identified as:

Economic Development & Enterprise,  
Children & Young People,  
Healthier Communities & Older People, and  
Safer & Stronger Communities.

Thus, the Community Strategies will only fully link with and relate to the LAA when they are revised within the next two years.

## **MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

### LINKS between MENDIP COMMUNITY STRATEGY and SOMERSET LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

#### **LAA Outcome 1**    Children and Young People

Improve the emotional, physical and mental health of children and young people in Somerset to promote healthier and more enjoyable lifestyles

#### **LAA Outcome 2**    Children and Young People

Improve expectations, aspirations and life chances for the most vulnerable children and young people in Somerset including children looked after

#### **MSP Priority Action**        Investing in Children and Young People

*Lead is the Mendip Children & Young People's Area Planning Group; establishing three locality teams across Mendip and implementing the 'Every Child Matters' strategy. Project to encourage and enhance young people's participation skills lead by Barnardos*

#### **LAA Outcome 3**    Healthier Communities

To promote and improve the health and lifestyles of Somerset people

#### **LAA Outcome 4**    Healthier Communities

To reduce health inequalities in Somerset

#### **LAA Outcome 5**    Healthier Communities

Maximise public health benefits by ensuring the 'Choosing Health' strategy delivers the maximum potential

#### **No direct MSP Priority Action**

*LAA Outcomes are targeted within Strategic Partnership by PCT and PCT/MDC joint working*

**LAA Outcome 6** Older People

To prevent dependency, promote social participation and offer greater choice and control for older people

**No direct MSP Priority Action**

**LAA Outcome 7** Economic Development and Enterprise

Increase investment levels and business competitiveness in Somerset

**LAA Outcome 8** Economic Development and Enterprise

Increase growth and sustainability of small businesses in Somerset

**LAA Outcome 9** Economic Development and Enterprise

Promote a more sustainable Somerset rural economy

**LAA Outcome 10** Economic Development and Enterprise

Reduce worklessness and increase skills levels across Somerset's population

**MSP Priority Action** Regenerating the Mendip Economy

*Preparing an Economic Regeneration Strategy for Mendip. Build on regeneration and community work in Glastonbury SRB and Shepton Mallet MCTi initiatives. Promoting Mendip as attractive and sustainable location for business*

**LAA Outcome 11** Safer Communities

To build respect in communities and to reduce antisocial behaviour

**LAA Outcome 12** Safer Communities

To reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs and to reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime

**No direct MSP Priority Action**

*LAA outcomes are targeted within MSP by Crime and Drug Reduction Partnership (CDRP) plus MDC Community Safety Officer*

**LAA Outcome 13** Stronger Communities

A more thriving and vibrant Voluntary and Community Sector in Somerset which is in a stronger position to represent and support our communities

**LAA Outcome 14** Stronger Communities

To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services

**MSP Priority Action** Strengthening the Voluntary and Community Sector

*Establishing database, improving support and funding application processes. Marketing the VCS strengths to statutory agencies and building trust. Attract specialist skills and help (eg accounting/legal) from private sector*

**LAA Outcome 15** Stronger Communities

Helping to reduce poverty by maximising the take up of specific welfare benefits

**LAA Outcome 16** Stronger Communities

Maximising opportunities to meet the affordable housing needs of communities in Somerset

**MSP Priority Action** Affordable Decent Housing for All

*Investigating all opportunities created by partnership working on LAA and LPSAs. Developing monitoring systems to understand housing markets and needs. Articulating Mendip's interests at County and Regional levels. Ensuring engagement of younger and elderly people in planning and housing processes. Delivering sustainable homes*

**This LAA has no outcomes on Climate Change**

**MSP Priority Action** Tackling Climate Change Locally

*Establishing a Climate Change Group alongside the Mendip Environment Forum. Developing a Mendip Climate Change Strategy signed up to and taken forward by all MSP partners. Setting out action plan and timetable*



## Negotiating with the third sector

A one-day seminar at the Somerset County Cricket Club, Taunton, on 15 March 2007

*'I will champion community ownership of local assets so that people who want change can secure that change.'* Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer

The transfer of land and property assets as a means of empowering local communities and finding new ways to deliver local services is currently high on the political agenda. The review of community ownership and management of local assets being carried out by Barry Quirk, Chief Executive of Lewisham Council, will soon reach its conclusion. The theme of asset transfer has already featured prominently in the recent Local Government White Paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities* ([www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)). In the Pre-Budget Report the Chancellor announced a new £30 million fund which will help facilitate the transfer of local authority buildings to community ownership.

This recent government attention recognises that the third sector can bring focus to issues that are beyond the easy reach of the public and private sectors, and that ownership and control of assets can bring sustainability to community-led organisations.

### **This seminar will enable you to:**

- Hear how your authority can work more effectively with the third sector to achieve lasting benefits for your communities
- Learn from other councils how to invest value in third sector organisations through asset transfer, and how to manage the process of transfer
- Look at local case studies and hear about the social, economic and environmental benefits that have accrued from asset development projects in the third sector

### **Speakers**

Speakers include: Charles Woodd, Communities and Local Government, Jim Ross, Association of Chief Estates Surveyors, Lucy Findley, Regional Infrastructure for Social Enterprise, and Roger Pipe, Millfields Trust



## Who should attend?

The seminars will be of particular interest to local authority officers responsible for asset management, procurement, community services, planning, regeneration and economic development. Also those working in the public, private or voluntary sector to fund, support and develop third sector organisations in their region, as well as third sector practitioners.

### **The seminar will cover:**

- How to transfer land and property to the third sector in a way that creates real benefits for all parties and minimises risks
- How to tackle the potential barriers affecting asset transfer, such as state aid rules and 'clawback' on publicly funded assets
- How to create a more long-term, sustainable funding framework for the third sector

Sessions will be focused on the Finance Hub practitioner briefings published in September 2006, which cover:

- Land and property asset transfer to the third sector
- Full cost recovery
- Publicly funded assets
- State aid rules
- Surer funding of the third sector

If you would like to obtain a copy of the briefings please contact either the Development Trusts Association or acevo:

Development Trusts Association  
33 Corsham Street  
London N1 6DR  
t 0845 458 8336  
info@dta.org.uk

acevo  
1 New Oxford Street  
London  
WC1A 1NU  
t 0845 345 8481  
info@acevo.org.uk

# Seminar programme – Somerset County Cricket Club, Taunton, 15 March 2007

## The morning programme

- 09.30**      **Registration and coffee**
- 10.00**      **Chair's welcome and introduction**
- 10.15**      **National policy context**  
*Charles Woodd, Communities and Local Government (CLG)*
- 10.50**      **Regional context**  
*Lucy Findlay, Regional Infrastructure for Social Enterprise (RISE)*
- 11.20**      **Local authority perspective**  
*Jim Ross, Senior Vice-President, Association of Chief Estates Surveyors*
- 11.45**      **Refreshment break**
- 12.00**      **Breakout sessions**  
A. Learning from practice – asset transfer case study  
*Roger Pipe, Millfields Trust*  
B. Tackling potential barriers to asset transfer to the third sector  
*Tony Rich, Rich Regeneration*  
C. Encouraging better funding practice: understanding full cost recovery and surer funding  
*David Hunter, acevo*
- 13.00**      Lunch

## The afternoon programme

- 14.00**      **Feedback from breakout sessions**
- 14.20**      **A view from the voluntary and community sector**  
*Rep from South West Forum tbc*
- 14.40**      **'What needs to be done to encourage greater asset transfer from local authorities to the third sector?'**  
Panel discussion  
*Charles Woodd, CLG*  
*Sandra Rothwell, South West Regional Development Agency*  
*Lucy Findlay, RISE*  
*Roger Pipe, Millfields Trust*
- 15.25**      **Chair's summary and close**

# booking form

## Somerset County Cricket Club, Taunton

**15 March 2007**

To book your place, please complete your details below.

Booking forms should be returned to Clare Prout, Development Trusts Association, 33 Corsham Street, London N1 6DR or fax: 0845 458 8337.

Name	
Position	
Organisation	
Address	
Tel	Fax
Email*	

### **SEMINAR FEE: £75 (plus VAT)**

A limited number of bursaries are available for community organisations.

Please email [c.prout@dta.org.uk](mailto:c.prout@dta.org.uk).

- Please find enclosed a cheque payable to 'Development Trusts Association'
- Please invoice me for the fee (your purchase order no: \_\_\_\_\_ if applicable)

Signature
Date

\*Please note that confirmation of your booking will be sent by email.

Booking deadline: bookings will be taken up to seven days before the event

Please inform the DTA in advance of any specific requirements you may have in order to enjoy the event fully.

The seminar is one of a series of regional events. To find out more, please contact the DTA on 0845 458 8336, or visit our website at [www.dta.org.uk](http://www.dta.org.uk) for details of the full programme.

**From:** Lockyer, Christian  
**Sent:** 28 February 2007 08:50  
**Subject:** MENDIP RECOGNISED FOR FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

## PRESS RELEASE

28/02/2007

# MENDIP RECOGNISED FOR FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Mendip has been shortlisted for a national award for its work in tackling climate change at local level.

The awards, run by the Local Government Chronicle and Health Service Journal, are for partnership work in promoting sustainable communities.

There were 22 entries in the climate change category. Four, including Mendip, have been shortlisted. Winners will be announced at a ceremony in London on March 28.

The Mendip Strategic Partnership, made up of public sector agencies, including Mendip District Council, voluntary and community organisations, and business representatives, leads the Tackling Climate Change Locally action plan, adopted in December 2005.

The action plan provides strategic direction for all the organisations involved and encourages individuals to take action. A number of projects aiming to deliver carbon savings at local level have been kick-started. These include:

- Community Choices for Sustainable Living. This project is working with with groups in Frome, Glastonbury, Westbury, Pilton, Beckington and more, looking at ways of reducing their carbon footprint through energy efficiency in the home, increased walking and cycling, decreasing the need for and the demand for car travel, installation of renewable energy, car sharing etc.
- Mendip Partnership for Energy: energy auditing for public buildings belonging to the district council, county council, primary care trust and police, along with a public campaign promoting energy efficiency.

"We are delighted to have been shortlisted for this award," said Ron Ballantine, chairman of the Mendip Strategic Partnership.

"This is a great example of why partnership working is so important – we all , as organisations and individuals need to look at how we can change our behaviours to help tackle climate change."

Mendip District Council's leader Councillor Ken Maddock added: "Mendip is a great place to live. We are all responsible for protecting our environment.

"I am very proud that we have been shortlisted in this new award category."

To find out more about the range of energy efficiency advice and support available to organisations provided by the Mendip Strategic Partnership and Mendip District Council telephone customer services on 01749 648999, e-mail: [customerservices@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@mendip.gov.uk), or visit [www.mendip.gov.uk](http://www.mendip.gov.uk).

-ends-

**MORE DETAILS:** Menna Davies, 01749 341205

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

The Mendip Strategic Partnership aims to secure and enhance the well-being of the district through partnership working, and has published a community strategy setting out its priorities.