

Links are in red

From: "Weaver, Lisa" <lisa.weaver@mendip.gov.uk>
To: "Mendip LSP"

Sent: 03 December 2008 11:17
Attach: SCS and LDF core strategy consultation.doc; 1 Agenda 9.12.08.doc; App A BFSG Notes 31.10.08.docm; MSP Funding Programme.doc; Tackling Climate Change Locally Progress Update.doc; Affordable Decent Housing Progress Update.doc; Investing in Children Young People progress update.doc; Regenerating the Mendip Economy Progress Update.doc; Strengthening the VC Sector Progress Update.doc; MSP Minutes 16.09.08.doc; MSP Climare Change Action Plan draft.doc
Subject: Mendip Strategic Partnership Board Meeting 9th December

Dear MSP Board Member and Colleague,

Please find attached an [agenda](#) and supporting papers for the MSP board meeting scheduled for Tuesday 9th December starting at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council.

Just to remind you that car parking is extremely limited at the Council Offices and visitors are encouraged to use the public pay and display car park in Commercial Road.

I look forward to seeing you all next week, but if you have any queries in the meantime please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Lisa Weaver

Modern Apprentice, Community Planning,
Mendip District Council,
Council Offices, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet,
Somerset BA4 5BT

 **Telephone Customer Services:** 01749 648999

 **E-mail:** lisa.weaver@mendip.gov.uk

The contents of this e-mail are intended for the named addressee only. This email may contain information which is confidential or privileged. Unless you are the named addressee you may not copy or use it, act in reliance on it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you have received this email in error please notify Mendips Strategic ICT Dept on 01749 341270 or by email at StrategicICT@mendip.gov.uk and then destroy it.

The Council reserves the right to monitor, record and retain any incoming and outgoing emails for security reasons and for monitoring internal compliance with the Council's policies including the policy relating to email use. Email monitoring and / or blocking software may be used, emails may also be disclosed to other people under legislation, particularly the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Unless this email relates to Mendip District Council business it will be regarded by the Council as personal and will not be authorized or sent on behalf of the Council. The sender will have sole responsibility for any legal actions or disputes that may arise.

Mendip District Council makes every effort to keep its network secure and free from viruses. However you do need to check this email and any attachments to it for viruses and accuracy as the Council can take no responsibility for any viruses, errors or omissions which are transferred or arise as a result of the transmission of this email.

This e-mail has been scanned for viruses by Verizon Business Internet Managed Scanning Services - powered by MessageLabs. For further information visit <http://www.verizonbusiness.com/uk>



Mendip Strategic Partnership
Board Meeting 9 December 2008
2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Public Participation**
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 16 September 2008**
4. **Avalon Marshes Visitor Destination Project** Presentation from Stephen Davis, Natural England
5. **Chairman's update** Verbal report from the Chair on recent events and meetings attended
6. **Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy** Representative from Somerset County Council to present the draft for consultation
7. **Mendip District Council Corporate Plan** Verbal update
8. **The Mendip Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework Core Strategy** Update on consultation on vision and objectives and options
9. **MSP Climate Change Action Plans**
To sign off the multi-agency action plans
10. **Monitoring the Five Priorities Action Plans** To receive progress reports from each priority lead
11. **MSP Funding 2008/09** Report about arrangements for second homes council tax monies for 2008/09 and notes of the Budget and Finance Sub-Group meeting held on 31 October attached
12. **LAA Update** Verbal update
13. **Mendip District Council Community Partnerships** Update / feedback on MDC community partnerships
14. **Local Community Planning** Verbal updates for information on Shepton 21 and Vision for Frome
15. **Any Other Business**
16. **Dates of Meetings for 2009**
10 March 2009; 12 May 2009; 15 September 2009; 8 December 2009

All to commence at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council.



Mendip Strategic Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Mendip Strategic Partnership held at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 16 September 2008 in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council.

PRESENT: Penny Baker
Ron Ballantine
Robin Bradbury
Maggy Daniell
Richard Dixon
Thomas Fowler
Andrew Freeman
Michelle Hawkes
Roger Kershaw
Zena Pollard
Tony Shire
Harvey Siggs
Jo Stevenson
Linda Tucker
Nikki Watson
Roy Wills
Julie Yates

MACOC
Chair
Somerset Association of Local Councils
East Mendip Community Partnership
Mendip Environment Forum
Faith Representative
Somerset County Council
Somerset Primary Care Trust
Somerset County Council
Mendip Business Exchange
Somerset County Council
Mendip District Council
St Dunstan's School
Natural England
Avon & Somerset Police
Central Mendip Community Partnership
Somerset Primary Care Trust

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT:

Guy Braga
Sarah Guscott
John Meeker
Jo Milling
Pam Newsham
Sara Skirton

Area Regeneration Officer –
Shepton Mallet
Senior Manager – Corporate Support,
Strategy and Research
Senior Policy Officer – Planning Policy
Senior Policy Officer – Community
Planning and Consultation
Policy Assistant
Team Leader - Community Planning
and Consultation

Agenda Item Number	Details	Actioned by
1	<p>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</p> <p>Sara Skirton opened the meeting and invited nominations for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Chair - Ron Ballantine was nominated by Harvey Siggs, seconded by Richard Dixon and was re-elected unopposed.</p> <p>Vice-Chair – Richard Dixon was nominated by Linda Tucker, seconded by Ron Ballantine and was re-elected unopposed.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Ian Bennett, Les Bennett, Stuart Brown, Alan Brunt, Henry Hobhouse, Jon Miller, Stephen Fowler, Chris Frost, Michael Hammond, Sonia Pike, Zena Pollard, Tony Shepherd and Stan Wilson.</p>	
3	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>There were no matters on which members of the public wished to speak.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the Meeting on 20 May 2008</p> <p><u>Page 2</u></p> <p>Under the item “Apologies for Absence” Cllr Harvey Siggs wished it to be recorded that he had offered his apologies for this meeting. This amendment having been made, the minutes were agreed as a correct record of proceedings.</p> <p>There were no matters arising which would not be dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.</p>	PN
5	<p>Chair’s Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 May – Meeting of the Mendip Area Working Panel. Discussion took place on the new terms of community engagement and there was general agreement that Area Working Panels should now be dissolved, and joint working 	

Agenda Item Number	Details	Actioned by
	<p>with Mendip District Council's Community Partnerships pursued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 June – Meeting of the five LSP chairs in Somerset. • 20 June – Somerset Strategic Partnership meeting to discuss refreshing the vision for Somerset which will form the basis of the Local Area Agreement and the new Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy to be produced in December. • 8 July – MSP multi-agency workshop held in Wells Town Hall which was widely attended by representatives of statutory, community and voluntary organisations. • 9 July – Meeting of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in Yeovil. • 16 July – Meeting of the Stronger and Healthier Communities sub-group – discussion on adult learning and updates on LAA themes and draft delivery plans. • 22 July – MSP Budget and Finance Sub-Group meeting. <p>The Chair reported that the LAA for Somerset was formally signed off by government ministers at the beginning of July.</p> <p>With the probable demise of Area Working Panels, Richard Dixon sought clarification on potential alternative funding streams for voluntary sector organisations whose projects carry a Mendip-wide remit. Andrew Freeman confirmed that flexibility exists for County Councillors to combine their individual disbursements of £15,000 to cover more substantial cross-ward boundary working if they so wished. It is hoped that the County Council will be able to put in place more formal structures for disbursement of funds, including the possibility of collaborative working, by the autumn.</p>	
6	<p>The Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Development Framework Core Strategy – towards a vision and objectives and MSP Climate Change Action Plans</p> <p>Sara updated the Board on progress towards refreshing the Mendip Sustainable Community Strategy, Climate Change Strategy Action Plans and developing the LDF Core Strategy. Over the summer, the</p>	

Agenda Item Number	Details	Actioned by
	<p>Community Planning and Planning Policy teams have been working through and making links between the findings from the Time to Plan consultation, statistical and technical information about Mendip and the outputs from the stakeholder workshop.</p> <p>The emerging 'big issues' are detailed in Appendix A, while potential components of a new vision for Mendip to 2026 are contained in Appendix B. Assuming these are acceptable to partners, they have been translated into some broad strategic objectives outlined in Appendix C. These documents were circulated in advance of the meeting to allow partners time to consider if they think anything is missing, see if they can broadly sign up to these objectives and, indeed, how they can contribute through their organisations' own strategies, objectives and ambitions.</p> <p>It is anticipated that draft components of vision and LDF Core Strategy draft objectives will be sent out for public consultation over the winter months. Following this, we hope to finalise the vision in early 2009, from which prioritisation of objectives will flow.</p> <p>Jo reported that draft action plans are currently being worked on in relation to the Climate Change Strategy and will be brought to the next Board Meeting in December for consideration.</p> <p>Discussion on the documents took place with wide-ranging points of view being put forward:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents appear far too all-embracing and are not sufficiently detailed; • Documents comprise a strategic statement of objectives and future plans to enable Mendip to become the sort of place we want to live, work and visit in future years; • It is essential to have a high level strategic document as a necessary starting point. However, a delivery plan is also vital and a detailed timetable will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting for the Board's information; • Good links established between education, healthier communities and economic prosperity; • Essential to involve working in partnership with communities, 	<p style="text-align: center;">JM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SS</p>

Agenda Item Number	Details	Actioned by
	<p>to identify and address their needs;</p> <p>For clarity, Sara reiterated the fact that the Sustainable Community Strategy needs to start with a vision which is ambitious, aspirational and Mendip-centric. Consultation will be important and will lead to the development of an action plan. The process is iterative and will be further refined at each stage. Action plans will need to be realistic and fully-resourced and accommodated within the business plans and objectives of those multi-agency partners who have 'signed up' to the vision for Mendip.</p> <p>Andrew Freeman confirmed that feedback obtained from his colleagues at Somerset County Council had been very positive and they would like to play a positive part in the development of objectives. His colleagues would like to be involved in any consultation and participate in the development of action plans to avoid duplication and ensure alignment with the targets in the Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>Harvey Siggs emphasised the fact that all the issues contained in the document require partners to be comfortable with the direction of the vision and accept the requirement their organisations will have to take responsibility for turning the vision into reality.</p> <p>The Board AGREED the components of a draft vision and draft objectives for the Sustainable Community Strategy as a basis for further consultation.</p>	
7	<p>Monitoring the Five Priorities Action Plans</p> <p>The Monitoring Group meeting scheduled for 4th September did not take place. Updates on progress on the five priority action plans have been received and have been circulated to the Board for information. The Chair anticipates that the current priority action plans will be brought to closure by the end of the financial year and a start will be made on developing action programmes for the emerging new priorities.</p>	
8	<p>MSP Funding 2008/09</p> <p>The notes from the meeting of the Budget and Finance Sub-Group held on 22nd July had been circulated prior to the meeting. At that meeting, discussion had taken place on the best way of allocating available second homes Council Tax monies available to the MSP of £43,200. Requests totaling just over £26,000 have been received from the leads</p>	

Agenda Item Number	Details	Actioned by
	<p>for the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling climate change locally • Affordable, decent housing • Strengthening the voluntary and community sector <p>Assuming these bids are successful, a strategy is required for the allocation of the remaining funds. A number of unsolicited bids have also been received and need to be considered by the Budget and Finance Sub-Group. Any proposed spending plan has to be submitted to Somerset County Council ten days in advance of an SSP Executive meeting – the next one is scheduled for 20th November.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the date of the next BFSG meeting be brought forward to early November in order to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend a level of funding for the priority continuation projects; • Consider how best use can be made of the remaining 2008/09 funding, taking into account the work to date on emerging vision and objectives, and the additional requests for funding that have been received; and • Develop a partial or complete spending plan to submit to the SSP Executive’s November meeting. 	
9	<p>LAA Update</p> <p>Roger Kershaw confirmed that the LAA for Somerset has been signed off and its objectives have been integrated within the County’s plans and forms the cornerstone of members’ budgets. Members will be looking for the most effective way of linking allocation of their available budgets of £15,000 into the LAA targets. These targets will be refreshed as part of the governance of the LAA towards the end of this year.</p> <p>Harvey Siggs commented that Mendip District Council (MDC) is undertaking extensive research via Ipsos MORI and initial findings coming out from people do not necessarily fit with the LAA priorities. Roger thought that this research would be very helpful for the MSP in its efforts in trying to shape its vision for the future.</p>	

10

Mendip District Council Community Partnerships

Continuing the discussion on the extent and success (or otherwise) of community engagement initiatives, the Chair invited updates from the representatives of the Area Community Partnerships who were present.

Harvey Siggs reiterated the difficulty in fully engaging with the community and representatives from MDC will be visiting South Somerset District Council to consider whether any elements of their model would suit Mendip. There was general agreement on the vital role which parish councils play in involving their communities and to encourage them wherever possible to achieve 'quality' status. A Quality Parish Council will work with others, including the voluntary and community sector, to undertake services funded from its own resources to look after the parish environment and provide public facilities and may take on the delivery of some services on behalf on principal authorities thereby making services responsive to local needs. It should mean additional roles and responsibilities with proof to the local community that the parish council can make a difference. It will provide an assurance that principal authorities will consult and involve the parish councils in all matters that affect the local community. With increased responsibility should come money from principal authorities to fund newly delegated roles.

Tony Shire reported that the Area West Committee in South Somerset had been successful in obtaining funding of £56,000 from the MCTI which allowed employment of part-time project workers to carry out consultation. This involved all the parishes around the market towns of Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster and meetings regularly involved attendance of around 70% of parishes. They were heavily involved in the vision for the area and community programme projects and the whole initiative proved very successful.

Maggy Daniell reported that attendance at East Mendip Community Partnership meetings tends to consists of district councillors or those residents concerned about a particular item. They have trialled themed meetings which have been interesting but which have still failed to attract a response from local people.

With regard to the Central Mendip Community Partnership, Roy Wills felt that holding meetings in village halls might be helpful. When the Partnership met to discuss the emerging 'big issues' from the Time to Plan consultation and multi-agency stakeholder workshop, over 50 people attended. The Partnership has selected three items from this list which are particularly pertinent to the area and will be brought forward to

	<p>future meetings for further discussion.</p> <p>It was agreed that the publicity surrounding Area Community Partnership meetings needs to be considered to ensure it is effective as possible in order to raise awareness and to encourage members of the public to attend.</p>	
11	<p>Local Community Planning</p> <p>In the absence of Zena Pollard, Guy Braga, the council's Area Regeneration Officer for Shepton Mallet and surrounding area, provided an update on the work of Shepton 21.</p> <p>Guy echoed the views put forward earlier in the meeting surrounding a vision for Mendip. This mirrored the work of Shepton 21 where its original vision had to be translated into actions with partners taking responsibility and sharing plans in the context of wider provision of services.</p> <p>With regard to the proposed Community Advice, Training and Employment Centre (CATEC), a meeting with consultants is taking place on 17th September from which options will be worked out for consideration.</p> <p>The proposed extension of the East Somerset railway is progressing. The potential to transport freight by rail would be useful for the businesses in the area which currently rely on road links.</p> <p>Vision4Frome – Maggy reported that a draft plan was produced in June which is now open for public consultation and will be revised if necessary in response to consultation feedback. After the Plan is created, V4F needs to become an implementation body, to take forward some of the projects, apply for funding and make sure what the people want is delivered. This will be the on-going community role.</p>	
12	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Andrew Freeman reported that fifteen rural partnerships across South West England have been awarded funding from the Local Action fund for rural communities. The community partnerships had to show how their objectives and priorities fitted with the objectives of the Rural Development Programme for England and priorities for Local Action by supporting the creation of genuinely sustainable farming, forestry and food sectors, whilst also bringing wider benefits for the economy, the environment and rural communities. The Somerset Levels and Moors Local Action Group have been awarded a grant of £1.8m to be made in</p>	

	January 2009. A briefing sheet is attached to these minutes for the Board's information.	
13	Dates of Future Meetings The next meeting of the MSP Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 9 th December 2008 in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council offices, commencing at 2.30 pm.	

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.15pm.

DRAFT

The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item:

FROM: Community Planning and Planning Policy Teams, MDC Date: 9 December 2008

SUBJECT: **Mendip Sustainable Community Strategy and Mendip Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Consultation on Vision, Objective, Issues and Options**

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to:
- Flag up the second phase of the Time to Plan consultation process
 - Ask partners to raise awareness of and encourage participation in the consultation exercise

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At the last meeting of the MSP Board on 16 September 2008, members considered and agreed, subject to some minor amendments, the components of a draft vision and draft objectives for the Sustainable Community Strategy as a basis for further consultation.

The consultation is a joint exercise to inform the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy vision and objectives and also invites the public and stakeholders' views on issues and options for the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

This exercise is the second phase of the Time to Plan programme and focuses on a consultation paper, circulated separately to MSP Board members, that sets out and invites comments on:

- draft components of vision for Mendip as a whole, as the starting point for the Sustainable Community Strategy
- potential objectives for the Mendip Sustainable Community Strategy that would deliver such a vision
- potential objectives for the Local Development Framework Core Strategy that would help deliver the planning or 'spatial', aspects of such a vision.
- a draft spatial vision and draft strategic objectives for each of the five Mendip 'towns'
- possible options for the ways in which the Core Strategy might achieve the draft objectives.

Deleted: a draft rural strategy

Formatted: Not Highlight

The consultation period began on 4 December 2008 and runs until 29 January 2009.

To support the consultation paper, a summary leaflet has been produced for each of the five towns and portraits of place have been produced for the district as a whole and for each town. These portraits bring together evidence and context to help identify the key issues for Mendip and to help support well-informed consultation.

People can access the consultation paper and supporting information online via a dedicated web page on Mendip District Council's website www.mendip.gov.uk following for Time to Plan links, and they can also complete online response surveys.

Deleted: Time to Plan

Deleted: /XXXX

Deleted:

Hard copies of the full consultation paper and supporting information can be viewed at any of the council's information points and we are holding drop-in surgeries in each of the five towns:

8 December	Glastonbury Library	10am – 5pm
9 December	Mendip District Council Offices	9am – 5pm
11 December	Wells Council Information Point	9am – 5pm
12 December	Street Library	10am – 5pm
16 December	Frome Library	10am – 5pm

4. NEXT STEPS

Sustainable Community Strategy

The draft vision and objectives for the SCS will be refined in the light of consultation responses and brought back to the MSP Board for further consideration early in 2009.

The Board will need to consider if priorities need to be changed in the light of all the evidence gathered during the Time to Plan process.

Discussions will then need to take place with partners to look at what specific action needs to be taken by partners to address the priorities and achieve the emerging objectives, and how this will be resourced.

The outcome of this process will be the Sustainable Community Strategy for Mendip.

This process is illustrated overleaf with an indicative timescale.

Local Development Framework Core Strategy

The views expressed through the consultation will assist the Council in refining the options suggested in the consultation paper and in identifying further options. These views will also assist the Council in appraising the alternative approaches in some detail. This appraisal is done through a process called "sustainability appraisal". This will help the council to identify its "preferred options" - the options which appear to offer the best means of addressing the issues people have raised. The Council will then consult again, this time on the preferred options, setting out the alternatives considered and the reasons for rejecting them. This "Preferred Options" consultation is expected to take place in autumn 2009. In the light of the views expressed at that stage, the Council will then decide whether it proceeds with those preferred options.

Formatted: Not Highlight

Having developed the chosen options into detailed policies and proposals, the Council will need to invite representations on a draft Core Strategy and consider

Formatted: Not Highlight

those representations before submitting the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State. He or she will then appoint a Planning Inspector to independently examine the final plan in early 2011.

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

Deleted: Simon, please can you include some brief 'next steps'

5. RECOMMENDATION

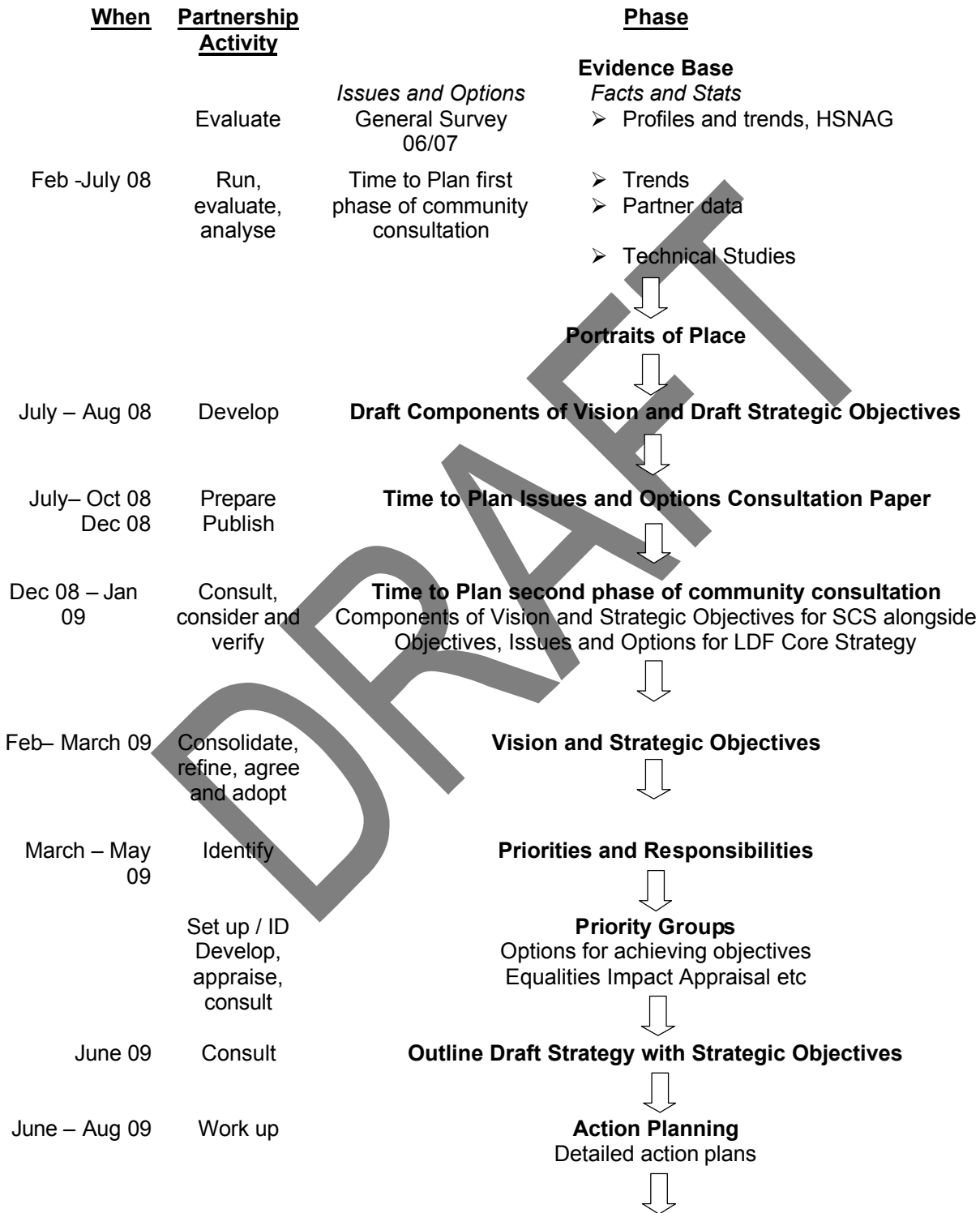
5.1 Board Members are asked to:

- note the report
- encourage their organisations, community groups they work with and other contacts to take part in the consultation, which will help shape the direction of the SCS and help inform the preparation of the Core Strategy.

Contact: Jo Milling or Simon Eames 01749 648999
millingj@mendip.gov.uk eames@mendip.gov.uk

DRAFT

Sustainable Community Strategy Development Indicative Timeline



DRAFT

Mendip Strategic Partnership Climate Change Action Plan

1. This set of Actions for Climate Change has been produced in response to the **Mendip Strategic Partnership Climate Change Strategy** (May 2007). The 2007 Strategy looked at what the issues and impacts of climate change may be in Mendip, now and in the future. The Strategy considered how these could be dealt with in the future through the action of the MSP partners and others, including how it may be possible to help mitigate against future impacts. Actions were presented in the Strategy on responding to impacts and help reduce production of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. However, the actions contained in the Strategy were examples only.
2. The intention of this Action Plan is to select specific actions that can realistically be taken forward to respond to the issues of climate change. The Actions presented in this document have been developed based on the Strategy and a workshop held on 8 July 2008. This workshop was attended by a range of people representing organisations and businesses that work throughout Mendip, in addition to MSP partners, and was held, in part, specifically to help develop a suitable set of Climate Change Actions for the MSP.
3. The Action Plan is for the MSP, therefore the actions are divided into those that will need to be implemented by partner organisations, working with others or individually. There are also those actions that are for the MSP working as a whole, using the specific role the Partnership has in preparing strategies and influencing the work of others.
4. It is the intention for the Action Plan to be limited to a core set of Actions that can begin to be implemented from now. The Action Plan is not intended to be a static document and should be actively monitored and reviewed to ensure Actions are being implemented and new Actions are established.
5. *This Action Plan has been agreed by the MSP Climate Change sub-group and/or the full MSP. Discussion of implementation will be part of the ongoing work of the MSP, and implementation will be monitored by the MSP.*

Raise awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation

Action	How it can be delivered	Who is responsible	Targets
Nominate climate champion for each MPS partner.	Proactively raise awareness and provide advice and information to customers, partners and the public. This person would have the responsibility for all actions in the Mendip Climate Change Strategy, including the Green Travel Plan, Procurement Plan, and Energy Review/Audit.	All MSP Partners	Climate change champions identified by End 2008. Provided with suitable training by Summer 2009.
Identify exemplar projects or working practices, and central information source.	<p>The MSP should pool resources to identify exemplar schemes. Look for best practice, and pool expertise and procurement.</p> <p>Develop a local information library of sources and create pages on the MSP website.</p> <p>MDC to provide a named officer as central point of contact.</p> <p>MDC to provide best practice and lead by example in the way they undertake all the actions within this Climate Change Action Plan.</p>	<p>MSP climate change sub-group working with all MSP partners</p> <p>MSP</p> <p>Mendip District Council</p> <p>Mendip District Council</p>	<p>Begin now</p> <p>Begin now</p> <p>Begin now</p> <p>Begin now</p>
Work to raise awareness of climate change in Mendip.	The MSP and all its partners to work with the people who live and work in Mendip, to raise awareness of the causes and likely impacts of climate change, to encourage people to respond to climate change in their own activities and develop opportunities to empower them to do so.	Education authority Local media Mendip District Council Mendip Environment CIC Somerset County Council Transition Towns	Various programmes will have different roll out timetable. Work should begin now.

MSP joint actions for climate change

Action	How it can be delivered	Who is responsible	Targets
Treat climate change as a cross cutting issue in all MSP work.	<p>Maintain the climate change sub-group of the MSP. Include in the remit of this group ensuring climate change is integrated into all relevant plans and strategies produced in Somerset and Mendip.</p> <p>Consider climate change in the ongoing review of the Sustainable Communities Strategy.</p>	MSP climate change sub-group	Ongoing
Recruit additional partners to encompass all sectors that will be affected by climate change.	<p>Work to identify MSP partners that are not currently part of the Tackling Climate Change sub group who could have a role in contributing to the priority.</p> <p>Identify areas of activity which are important in tackling climate change which are not represented on the MSP. Work in partnership with relevant organisations to ensure all issues are addressed.</p>	MSP together	End of 2008

Achieve energy efficient buildings

Action	How it can be delivered	Who is responsible	Targets
<p>Ensure new buildings make efficient use of energy and include a proportion of energy from on or off-site micro generation of renewable energy.</p>	<p>If new buildings or substantial building works are commissioned by MSP partners, ensure that energy and water efficiency and renewable energy, are fully considered in the decision making process, and that opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings are not lost.</p> <p>This will need to be supported by planning policy and decisions made on planning applications.</p>	<p>All MSP partners commissioning building works</p> <p>Mendip District Council – planning policy & development control</p>	<p>As new buildings are planned</p> <p>Following the LDF preparation timetable.</p>
<p>Assess energy performance of existing buildings and implement improvements to achieve energy and water efficiency.</p>	<p>All partner organisation to undertake an Energy Review or Audit and implement actions to achieve energy savings where necessary, based on the Mendip Partnership for Energy approach.</p> <p>Existing buildings maintenance and repair programmes for all MSP partners' buildings should include the need to install energy and water efficiency technologies. For example, energy saving lightbulbs, timer switches, and insulation.</p> <p>All MSP partners to raise staff awareness of energy and water efficiency and encourage energy and water efficient behaviour at work, as one of the most cost effective means of reducing energy and</p>	<p>All MSP partners</p> <p>All MSP partners</p> <p>All MSP Partners</p>	<p>All MSP partners to have undertaken an Energy Review/Audit and implemented energy saving actions by Summer 2009.</p> <p>All MSP partners to include improving energy and water efficiency in maintenance programmes.</p> <p>All MSP partners to develop strategies to change staff behaviour by Summer 2009.</p>

	water consumption.		
--	--------------------	--	--

Prepare climate change strategies

Action	How it can be delivered	Who is responsible	Targets
Reduce the amount of energy used by car travel.	Green Travel Plans should be prepared with the aim of reduce car use for travel to work/school and encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of travel or home/distance working. These should target the specific needs of employees and the location of businesses.	All MSP Partners – either individually or within suitable groups of organisations	Begin now – to Autumn 2009
Reduce the amount of energy used to transport and produce goods.	Green and Local Procurement Strategies should be prepared with the aim to reduce the energy used in transporting and producing goods used by MSP partners.	All MSP Partners	Begin now – to Autumn 2009
Prepare strategies for coping with the impacts of climate change.	The MSP should develop strategies to assist partners in adapting to the impacts of climate change, including flooding, extreme weather events and high summer temperatures. Where suitable this should include planning for emergencies and business continuity.	All MPS Partners Include other organisations as appropriate.	Begin now – to Summer 2009

MENDIP COMMUNITY SUPPORT

MENDIP STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

FIVE PRIORITIES

STRENGTHENING THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

REPORT – NOVEMBER 2008

1. Simplify the funding application process
 - A county wide COMPACT was developed to include; identification of the process of administering access to longer term, consistent funding has been prepared, but still remains to be signed by Somerset County Council. The County Council are leading a review of the COMPACT.

2. Action taken to strengthen support for voluntary groups
 - In order to establish the support needed and understand the current situation within the voluntary and community sector organisations a survey was carried out by MCS. It was an unknown factor of how many groups in Mendip were able to meet the NCVO quality thresholds. A further object was to ascertain whether groups within Mendip operated to basic core standards. To meet these standards the groups should have a constitution, bank account, insurance, health and safety policies, equal opportunity policies, acceptable standards for managing volunteers and ensure that all appropriate staff has had CRB checks.
 - As an infrastructure organisation MCS manages a database of its membership. To provide a more effective service it was considered necessary to be able to record more information about the groups, which will enable the flow of information to be directed at the most appropriate groups and enable the statutory and other bodies and link in with those groups, which are best, suited to act as partners in any future project. Some of the new the hardware and software necessary to run a suitable database package has been purchased, installed and the database configured to meet the needs of the V & C sector.
 - During the past year MCS has worked with the CVS organisations in Taunton Deane, South Somerset, and West Somerset, together with the Sedgemoor Volunteer Centre to undertake development work on some of the recommendations in the Policy Commission Report produced by Somerset County Council and support the statutory bodies in their quest to achieve the outcomes detailed in the LAA. This piece of work has enabled the generic infrastructure organisations in Somerset, to work together and establish an accurate picture of the current level of infrastructure provision being delivered to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in the county and identify a way forward for further collaboration between the CVS organisations, to provide equity of service across the county.
 - As a result of the collaborative work MCS is a member of the Improving Reach Partnership, funded by Capacity Builders. The work plan has been approved and as the first step, MCS is now developing quality assurance procedures which could be adopted across the V & C sector, and investigating a common website which can be accessed by all in Mendip

3. Strengthen the Voluntary and Community Sector involvement in the Somerset Strategic Partnership (SSP)
 - This is an on going activity. Mendip are now part of the Somerset Voluntary Sector Network (SVSN) working with other organisations throughout the County. SVSN provides a link to the Somerset Strategic partnership.

- Training is provided as requested by the voluntary and community organisations as requested by the sector. These generally take the form of an evening training session, comprising talks and workshops. Events have covered such topics as CRB checks, submitting funding applications, and fundraising. The last session in Glastonbury primarily dealt with funding issues and was attended by 20 people. The feedback questionnaires returned by members attending these events indicated that we had met their expectations. The next session is being planned for January 2009 to be held in Frome.
4. Marketing the voluntary agencies and their strengths to statutory agencies and generally
- Currently 132 V & C sector groups have been identified and registered as members and a further 175 contacts have been established.
 - 550 editions of the Mendip Community support Newsletter is published every four months and circulated to voluntary and community organisations throughout the district. Circulation includes Mendip Strategic Partnership Partners, MDC Councillors and principal officers Principal Somerset CC officers and Parish Councils. In addition copies were made available at Tourist Information Centres, Libraries, GP, and dental practices.
 - Annual Mendip wide forums have been held in March for the past three years. An audience of 50 plus people from 45 organisations listen to a variety of talks and are given the opportunity to express their views during the workshop sessions. The topic under discussion vary from 'An Outline of Funding Programmes' to setting up charitable organisations and presenting Mendip wide issues such as the sustainable community strategy. The next forum is being planned for March 2009.
 - Regular articles appear in local newspapers outlining success stories of various V & C Sector groups.
 - A charity fair is being planned for 6th June 2009 to coincide with Volunteers Week.

Prepared by Tony Shepherd
(Mendip Community Support)
5th November 2008

Update to Mendip Strategic Partnership – 9th December 2008

Regenerating the Mendip Economy

Mendip Business Life website

In its first three months the website attracted 4,576 visits with the average person staying for 10 minutes. It has continued to attract positive commendations in the press and from local businesses, including being featured as a regional success on the InvestBritain website. MACOC has continued to work closely with MDC and Tickbox marketing to refine and update the site. News articles are updated regularly and the site now has almost 1400 businesses in the directory, having had less than 1,000 at the start.

Work has begun to identify opportunities for continuation funding with photographs of commercial premises being offered for a fee and Business Link as the first featured advertiser.

MSP Five Priorities

Investing in Children and Young People

Revised Action Plan

December 2008

- Establishment of Local Service Teams (previously Locality Teams) – this is complete now and there are two LST's in Mendip. West Mendip covering Street, Glastonbury, Wells and surrounding villages; this Team is managed by Mark Holden and East Mendip LST managed by Shelagh Fleming covering Frome, Shepton Mallet and surrounding villages. Most staff are now appointed and it is hoped the teams will be fully functioning by Feb 09.
- The Mendip Area Children & Young People's Planning Group has been reformed with John Kirby as Chair. Chris Frost is the Partnerships link on the Area Children's Planning Group and will be the L.A. Partnership rep on MSP Group.
- There needs to be a complete review of the MSP action plan for children and young people as much of the present plan has been completed and the MSP Mendip Participation Project funding will cease at the end of 08/09.

MSP Five Priorities**Affordable Decent Housing for All - To monitor Mendip's Housing Strategy****Revised Action Plan November 2008**

Status key O= on target, C= completed, D= delayed, R= reviewed

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
Investigate the opportunities created by working together in partnership (e.g. Local Area Agreements and Local Public Service Agreements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To influence the housing element of the new LAA through membership of the LAA Multi Agency Steering Group 	Mendip Strategic Housing Partnership(MSHP)/ All	June 07	April 08	Build on the opportunities presented by the LAA	NI's for housing chosen by SSHP (ex SSHOG)	NI 155, NI 154 and NI 187 approved for housing and in the top 34 chosen NI's for Somerset
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the other Somerset districts to develop, implement and monitor a countywide housing strategy 	As above	June 07	March 08	<i>Joint Strategy May 2009 Joint Housing Service/Shared Services across the county</i>	<i>After a countywide Peer Challenge it was recognised that SSHOG needed a vision for housing to be the lead statement in the countywide Housing Strategy. Therefore work on the Strategy will be held until the vision is approved.</i>	<i>Work on a countywide housing service began with a Peer Challenge in Oct. 2008</i>

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Multi Agency Toolkit project 	M.A.T Steering Group	Completed	Sept 07	Toolkit launched	<i>End date for a complete Strategy does not change.</i>	New bid now in for a continuation programme for the toolkit
Develop and maintain a sound understanding of the housing markets and housing needs and develop monitoring systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards West of England Strategic Housing Markets Assessment 	West of England Partnership authorities, MDC, West Wilts DC, Somerset CC, Wiltshire CC	Ongoing	June 08	Overall, to develop a means of providing up to date information on housing markets and housing need Knowledge of Housing Needs and House Condition across Somerset	Needs Assessment base work completed but delays in final analysis	<i>Final drafts now in. Consultation has had responses from MDC</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with all Somerset local authorities to capture, analyse and interpret data 	All Somerset local authorities	July 07	Aug 09		County has agreed that this type of survey will have an amended focus	Arrangements progressing between South Somerset, Taunton Deane

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
	<p>relating to housing markets and housing conditions in Somerset</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="376 1043 696 1222">▪ Maintain an understanding of gypsy and traveller accommodation needs 	All Somerset District councils	July 07	Dec 08	To provide more pitches and sites to accommodate the needs of gypsies and travellers in Mendip	<p>using the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to structure the long-term data in all future surveys County organising consultant to conduct preliminary work on a new needs assessment funded through the government grant of £8.400</p>	<p>and Mendip to work together on a Survey for those three districts</p> <p>As a county, working with Clive Miller to identify sites suitable for G and T's</p>

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement the new countywide IT system to manage the housing service ▪ Seek resources to continue to develop Rural Enabler surveys 	<p>The five housing authorities in Somerset</p> <p>MDC/Somerset Community Council</p>	<p></p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>Dec. 2008</p> <p>March 08</p>	<p></p> <p>To ensure that the Rural Housing Enablers have funding for 2008/9</p>	<p>Implementing</p> <p>The County Council have funded the gap in finance for the RHE's (£70K and £10K for West Somerset)</p>	<p>Implementation on target. Dual systems in place at the moment, applicants invited to re submit applications with up to date information</p>
Articulate Mendip's interests at County and Regional level (Regional Housing Strategy, Regional Economic Strategy and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement a system to enable MSHP to respond to key consultation documents ▪ Membership of the Somerset Strategic Housing Officer Group 	<p>MSHP, MDC</p> <p>MDC/PCT/Probation/ Somerset Partnership</p>	<p>Aug 07</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To continue to influence Regional and County policies and Strategies whilst being aware of our housing market area in the north of the region and</p>	<p>Key role in SSHP (ex SSHOG)</p>	<p>Through Pioneer looking at the future of a housing service for</p>

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
Regional Spatial Strategy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership of the Commissioning Body for Supporting People ▪ Membership of the Somerset Strategic Planning Conference and South West Regional Assembly <p>Develop and improve links with the West of England Partnership and set up appropriate liaison</p>	<p>MDC</p> <p>MDC</p> <p>MDC - Membership of the Regional Housing Forum Membership of the Regional Homeless and Choice Based letting Group</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>making links to integrate where appropriate</p>		<p>Somerset</p> <p>Continues</p> <p>Membership of Planning Conference retained through SSHP</p> <p>Conducting Housing Market Needs Assessment with the WoE</p> <p>Strategic Hsg. Manager, Mendip for SSHP</p>
Investigate the full range of opportunities to secure resources to deliver sufficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilise capital funding from MDC 	Mendip Strategic Housing Partnership	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ensuring that the resources and funding available are used efficiently to produce as	Capital funding cut by £50,000 for 2008/9.	Some developers coming through RSLs to Mendip offering properties they

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
affordable housing in Mendip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bid for capital and revenue funding from Supporting People for supported housing 	MDC	Aug 07	Annually	much affordable housing as possible		cannot sell.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare the Mendip Local Development Framework Core Strategy 	MDC with the Mendip Strategic Housing Partnership	Ongoing	Jan 2010		Detailed timetable for the next 2 years	This is linking with the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement and Monitoring the Local Development Core Strategy 	MDC with the Mendip Strategic Housing Partnership	Jan 2011	Onwards			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Supplementary Planning Document to provide housing through the planning systems 	MDC	Dec 2010	Aug 2011		Unlikely to produce an Interim Policy	

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Efficiently use funding - Registered Social Landlords own and private funds and Housing Corporation Funding ▪ Work with private sector landlords to bring forward affordable housing in the private sector 	<p>MDC's Preferred Development Partners, Housing Corporation</p> <p>MSHP</p>	<p>Sept 07</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Targets for new affordable housing now set within NI154 within the LAA</p>	<p>On target to meet or exceed 2008/9 target</p>	
<p>Ensure engagement of hard to reach groups in the planning and housing processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with agencies that work with children and young people to secure the delivery of consultation activity in the preparation of the Local Development Framework 	<p>MDC/Somerset County Council/Somerset Children's Fund/Young Somerset</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>Progress towards a possible new site. <i>Investigations taking place and arrangements moving forward to progress in this financial year</i></p>	

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to ensure communication through agencies working with hard to reach groups ▪ Identify mechanisms to ensure communication with hard to reach groups e.g. people with long term conditions 	<p>MDC/Somerset PCT /Police/YMCA/CAB</p> <p>MSHP</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 07</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 08</p>	<p>MSHP aware of agency consultation timetables to maximise opportunity for community engagement</p>		
Facilitate the delivery of sustainable homes in terms of their construction and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote energy efficiency and resource efficiency in the design and siting of new development, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Core Strategy ➤ Supplementary Planning Document ➤ MDC Development Control 	<p>MDC</p> <p>Mendip Strategic Partnership/MDC/PDP</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NI187</p>	<p>New joint post to address NI187 with Sedgemoor and West Somerset</p>	<p>Opted protocol for sustainable energy</p> <p>Scheme development standards currently being updated by the Housing Corporation</p> <p>Advice Plus funding</p>

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with partners to: ➤ Investigate and implement new measures to help make existing properties more energy efficient ➤ Review and renew present measures for achieving energy efficiency in existing properties 	MDC, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Utilities Companies					secured and Centre for Sustainable Energy
Raise local people's awareness of the need for adequate numbers of all types of homes to be accommodated in the district – to remove potential barriers to affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look for opportunities to raise awareness through partners' communications and events ▪ Local Development Framework community engagement process 	Mendip Strategic Housing Partnership MDC	Ongoing Ongoing	Ongoing Ongoing	Facilitate greater communication between all agencies involved in housing/ publicise what we are doing	Awareness raised at the Glastonbury Festival through surveys. Followed by a conference led by MHL and the Institute of Housing	

Objective	Action	Who	Start	Finish	Target /Output	Progress to Date	Comments/ Notes
Give greater choice to more people under Choice Based Lettings Scheme by increasing the tenure types that can be included within a CBL system, and facilitate greater mobility within the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Homefinder Somerset partners to investigate and implement increasing the tenure types that can be included within a CBL system 	Homefinder Somerset Partners	Jan 2009	Mar 2010	<p>Increase the numbers of people who can access housing across the district via CBL</p> <p>Greater choice and accountability to applicants</p>	Being implemented now	CBL implemented in all of Somerset by December 2008

MSP Priority; Tackling Climate Change Locally Progress Report December 2008

1. MSP Climate Change Strategy

A workshop was held on 8th July for all MSP partners to explore the impacts of climate change for their organisations. The workshop combined discussion of the Local Development Framework, Sustainable Community Strategy and action planning for the implementation of the MSP Climate Change Strategy

An action plan has now been drawn up which

- Sets out actions for MSP as an organisation
- Identifies actions for all MSP partners.

The Action Plan seeks commitment of all partners to tackling climate change, identifying and implementing measures appropriate to their own circumstances

2. Mendip Partnership for Energy

The project has now completed 61 energy audits for public buildings.

A draft report outlining a range of measures that would improve energy efficiency in audited buildings has now been prepared by the consultants. The report focuses on the basic measures that each partner should undertake to reduce wastage of energy in each building. There are significant savings that could be made by improving practice, raising staff awareness and making small changes to operating systems.

A package of awareness raising materials was launched on 27th October 2006. It has been used at 30 events so far, raising the awareness of more than 1700 people.

Partners are asked to consider ways of acting on the findings of the report alongside consideration of the Climate Change Action Plan. Some actions are generic, relating to the behaviour of building occupants rather than the fabric of individual buildings, and will be relevant to all MSP partners.

A conference to disseminate the findings of the Mendip Partnership for Energy is planned for Feb/March 2009.

3. Mendip Environment CIC

2 part-time project workers and now working for the CIC. They are currently supporting the Energy Efficiency Volunteers programme, and developing a range of other projects.

23 Energy Volunteers have been trained, publicity materials produced and auditing is being carried out in homes across the District. The volunteers have carried out 50 audits, and the programme is achieving a 50% take up rate for insulation measures, which is considerably higher than other programmes.

The CIC is currently investigating funding bids to South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, Esme Fairbairne Foundation, Somerset County Council and local sponsors. Projects in development include a Skills for Sustainability Training Programme and an Ecohomes open day.

The local information pack and website are now available online and a Business Plan has been agreed.

4. Partners

MSP partners are now being asked to consider how they incorporate the actions set out in the Climate Change Strategy and the Action Plan into their own plans and strategies.

Work is in progress to develop a Use of Natural Resources Strategy for Mendip District Council, which will include energy efficiency and climate change.

The Mendip Strategic Partnership

Agenda Item: 11

FROM: Team Leader – Community Planning, Mendip District Council Date: 9 December 2008

SUBJECT: MSP Funding Programme 2008/09 and MSP's own funds

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to ask Board members to:

- consider a request to use £2,000 of awards made from 2007/8 monies to the Regenerating the Mendip Economy Priority for a different purpose
- approve the MSP Funding Programme 2008/09

2. MSP FUNDING PROGRAMME 2008/09

2.1 In relation to second homes council tax monies for 2008/09, MSP Board members have previously noted that:

- any County Council funding will need to be match funded by the District Council
- County Council funding is capped at the level of District Council support to LSPs in 2007/08. For Mendip this is £21,600. This means that the maximum 2008/09 second homes Council Tax monies available to the MSP is £43,200
- spending plans need to demonstrate how projects will help to achieve the new Local Area Agreement targets
- spending plans are to be submitted to Somerset County Council and will be considered by the Somerset Strategic Partnership (SSP) Executive Group

2.2 The MSP had previously agreed to first invite the five Priority Leads to submit applications for continuation funding for any of their projects.

3. BUDGET AND FINANCE SUB GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Budget and Finance Sub Group (BFSG) of the MSP met on 31 October to:

- consider applications and where appropriate make recommendations for continuation funding totalling £26,348 relating to the following priorities:

- Tackling climate change locally
 - Affordable decent housing
 - Strengthening the voluntary and community sector
- further consider a request for support for a Somerset Biodiversity Officer
 - consider how best use can be made of the remaining 2008/09 funding, taking into account the work to date on emerging vision and objectives
 - develop a partial or complete spending plan to submit to the SSP Executive meeting to be held on 12 December

3.2 The Group made recommendations as shown in table 1 below, totalling £29,348.

3.3 This left potential for further recommendations up to a maximum of £13,762 to be made in the current financial year. There was some discussion at the meeting around the possibility of the MSP supporting an equalities and diversity project. The intention was to scope this out and bring a proposal back to the next BFSG meeting in the New Year.

3.4 Since that meeting, advice from Somerset County Council officers indicated that it would be preferable for the MSP to submit a complete programme for consideration by the SSP at its meeting on 12 December. BFSG members were therefore emailed to ask if they would support the inclusion in the programme of an equalities and diversity project to *'foster engagement with under-represented and hard to reach groups so that the MSP and its partners has a better understanding of their needs and to develop a dialogue with them on local outcomes'*. No objections were received.

3.5 The recommendations shown in table 1 are therefore being forwarded to the SSP Executive for consideration at its meeting on 12 December. The request is for the SSP to agree to fund 50% of each project from Somerset County Council second homes council tax monies. The other 50% would be funded from Mendip District Council second homes council tax monies.

3.6 The full notes of the BFSG meeting, accompany this report as Appendix A.

Table 1

MSP Funding Programme 2008/09 BFSG Recommendations		
MSP Current Priority	Project	Recommendation (to be funded 50% by SCC and 50% by MDC second homes council tax monies)
Tackling Climate Change Locally	Mendip Community Interest Company	£10,000
Affordable Decent Housing	Multi-Agency Toolkit	£5,298
Strengthening the Voluntary and Community Sector	Development of a volunteer bureau facility	£11,050
N/A	To support the Somerset Biodiversity Officer post	£3,000
N/A		13,852
Total		£43,200

4. REQUEST FROM REGENERATING THE MENDIP ECONOMY PRIORITY LEAD

4.1 Since the Budget and Finance Sub Group meeting on 31 October, a proposal has been received to transfer unspent 2007/08 monies totalling £2,000 to support the Catherine Hill signage project in Frome.

4.2 This is a 3-phase project to create a gateway to this part of the town, serving to emphasise its 'destination shopping' reputation. The project is intended to add value to existing businesses by increasing footfall, promoting tourist visits and encouraging the occupation of empty shop units.

4.3 The project is a joint funding partnership between Somerset County Council through its market town regeneration fund, Mendip District Council, private donations from the traders in those locations and Frome Town Council (amount to be agreed).

4.4 The construction of the metal archways to Stony Street, Palmer Street and Catherine hill will mimic similar arches in the town and will be complete by March 2009 to fit in with the Somerset fund criteria.

4.5 The Somerset fund offered slightly less than was requested which has left the group (Catherine Hill Association of Traders) with a shortfall. A £2,000 contribution from the MSP would help to meet that shortfall.

5. MSP'S OWN FUNDS

5.1 The MSP currently has £14,890 of its own non-second homes monies.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The Board is asked to:

- note the report and accompanying BFSG minutes
- approve the recommendations contained in table 1, subject to approval by the SSP Executive
- agree that £2,000 of 2007/08 monies can be diverted to support the Catherine Hill signage project in Frome.

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

	<p>of the current financial year. It was also agreed that the project needs to be linked in with the work of Shepton 21.</p> <p>Although the Shepton Digital Arts Project had been contacted several times, there has been no indication from them to date as to when they expect to claim their awarded funds of £2000. This project falls under the auspices of the Regenerating the Mendip Economy priority; it was agreed to discuss the matter with Allison Herbert and inform her that the lack of satisfactory communication so far might mean that funding is withdrawn from this project.</p>	SS
3	<p>MSP Funding Programme 2008/09</p> <p>The maximum 2008/09 second homes Council Tax monies that the MSP can access is £43,200. Requests for continuation funding for the priorities relating to housing, the voluntary and community sector and tackling climate change amount to £26,348. An additional request for funding has been received from Somerset Biodiversity and Local Sites Partnerships for a contribution toward a Somerset Biodiversity Co-ordinator post.</p> <p>Affordable Decent Housing for All As the provision of affordable, decent housing in the Mendip district is one of the MSP's main priorities, the Chair was surprised and disappointed to note the findings of a recently published report by the Audit Commission on Mendip District Council's strategic housing service. The full report is available via this link:</p> <p>http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports/BVIR.asp?CategoryID=&ProdID=38D4A2F1-94AD-4657-91E6-9BAC142B8867</p> <p>It was agreed that this issue be raised at the next Board Meeting in December in order that the MSP can offer its support and assistance to MDC in any way necessary.</p> <p>A funding application for the sum of £5,298 has been received. It is intended to use these monies towards supporting the multi agency toolkit database, keeping it updated as well as promoting greater use of this resource. It was agreed to recommend to the MSP Board that funding be approved on this occasion but that, in all probability, this would be the final award to the project. The Group would welcome a detailed report from the project on how many organisations use the database and how the database will be maintained in future.</p> <p>Strengthening the Voluntary and Community Sector The requested sum for this project is £11,050 towards the</p>	SS

development of a volunteer bureau facility. The funding will be used to finance a one-year fixed term post of a volunteer coordinator for 12 hours per week. Mendip Community Support is actively trying to form alliances with other community organisations in order to secure alternative external funding streams. It was agreed to recommend the sum of £11,050 be awarded to this priority.

Tackling Climate Change Locally

The Mendip CIC is seeking £10,000 to support its third year of development. Richard Dixon reported on the progress being made by the company in developing projects which will help tackle climate change in the local community. He plans to make a presentation on the work of the Mendip CIC at a Somerset County Council climate change conference next week. The company is developing projects and bidding for funding which will allow it to develop independent income streams. It was agreed to recommend that funding of £10,000 be awarded.

Somerset Biodiversity Strategy

The Somerset Biodiversity and Local Wildlife Sites Partnership is seeking financial support for a new Biodiversity Co-ordinator post for Somerset. It has estimated that a contribution of £3000 for each of the main partners would cover the amount needed. It is anticipated the benefits of the post for Mendip will be to implement actions from the Mendip Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Mendip priority Species and Habitat Action Plans. It was noted that the scheme can link to other biodiversity projects and would help to promote biodiversity within Somerset.

It was agreed to recommend granting the funding in the expectation that similar levels of funding would be received from the other partners. It would also be made clear that this amount is only applicable to the current financial year (2008/09) and that any similar requests for subsequent years would be the subject of future consideration.

MSP Website

Richard sought the advice of the Group in relation to the MSP website. He felt it needed a comprehensive review with a view to upgrading it in the light of new technology available and more advanced content management systems. It was agreed that Richard will put together a proposal with annual estimated expenditure of £2,000 up to £5,000. The most appropriate source of funding for such a project would be from the MSP's own non-second homes monies, which at present amount to £14,890. Richard currently administers the MSP website and will re-engage with Mendip District Council's IT department to consider what options might be open to him.

RD

	<p>In summary, a total recommendation of £26,348 for continuation priority funding will be put before the next meeting of the MSP Board, together with a further recommendation of £3,000 to Somerset Biodiversity and Local Sites Partnership. This leaves a total amount of £12,952 to be allocated.</p> <p>It was agreed that Sara would complete the necessary in principle funding proposal for submission to the Somerset Strategic Partnership Executive to meet its deadline of 5th December. The recommended awards will need to be approved by the MSP Board at its next meeting on the 9th December.</p>	SS
	<p>AOB The chair expressed his disappointment that so few Group members had been able to attend this meeting but accepted that this may have been due to the late change of date. The possibility of asking members to nominate and send substitutes as necessary was discussed. It was agreed to invite Robin Bradbury, as appointed SALC representative, to join the Group.</p>	SS

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 11.15am.