

Northern Devon Futures Board

Notes of a meeting of the Northern Devon Futures Board held at Caddsdawn, Bideford on Monday 17 April 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Nicola Allen, Petroc
Andrea Beacham, One Northern Devon (virtual)
Bill Blythe, Petroc
Phillip Butterworth, Arts Council England (virtual)
Toby Davies, Devon and Cornwall Police Constabulary
Dominie Dunbrook, North Devon Council
Stuart Elford, Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce
Chris Fuller, Torridge District Council
Councillor Rufus Gilbert, Economy and Skills DCC (virtual)
Marie Gould, NDVS and Chair of Place and Community NDF Action Group
Steve Hearse, Torridge District Council
David Hoare, Selaine Saxby MP Office (virtual)
Councillor Ken James, Torridge District Council
Tim Jones, SW Business Council and North Devon Plus
Sean Mackney, Petroc (Chair)
Mike Mathews, Lineal
Peter Morrish, Condition Monitoring Technology Group and Chair of the NDF
Economy, Innovation and Skills Action Group
Ken Miles, NDC
David Ralph, Heart of SW and LEP (virtual)
Donna Sibley, NDC/TDC
Jon Walter, Torridge District Council
Paul Whiting, Petroc

1) Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Keri Denton, Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills, DCC
Becky Harty, Deputy Locality Director, NHS Devon
Alison Mills, NDC

2) Notes of last meeting held on 17 January 2023

The Board considered and noted the notes of the last meeting held on 17 January 2023 (circulated previously).

Matters arising:

(a) Census

It was noted that a copy of the presentation slides and the comparison Census data with the South West had been circulated to members of the Board.

(b) Housing Task Force/Place and Communities Action Group

It was noted that the Place and Communities Action Group were extensively working on the lack of housing task assigned by the Board.

3) Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were announced.

4) Climate Group report – Climate Change in Northern Devon and the impacts to different sectors

Donna Sibley advised that Andy Bell was currently not present and it was agreed to defer the item until later on the agenda.

5) Update on the NDF Thematic Sub Groups

The Board received updates provided by the Leads for each NDF Thematic Sub Groups:

a. Place and Community (Housing)

Marie Gould, Chair of the Group (CEO of the Northern Devon Voluntary Service) provided an update on the work of the sub-group as follows:

- She had been appointed Chair of the Sub Group on 24 January 2023.
- As there had been a delay in holding the first meeting of the Sub Group some of the membership of the group had become unengaged. There was a need to renew the membership and to increase membership from the Torridge District Council area.
- Following concerns raised regarding employers experiencing difficulties in recruiting as a result of the lack of housing, the Sub Group had commenced work on mapping evidence. The next stage would be to undertake a survey to find out what was happening in the community and to invite representatives from Encompass and the Freedom Centre to a meeting of the Sub Group.
- The Sub Group had started to produce an action plan and were due to meet next week to firm up and to formulate a timetable of guest speakers from the

community and grass roots. The actions would include the celebration of local characters and what was happening to form a mapping exercise.

The Board discussed the following:

- The need for baseline data, so that the Board could consider what improvements could be made and set the agenda for organisations.

Action:

(a) That the Sub Group link in with the Police on the survey to avoid duplication following the recent survey undertaken by the Police in relation to anti-social behaviour.

b. Economy, Innovation and Skills

Chris Fuller provided an update on the work of the sub group as follows:

- Further progress had been made on producing the action plan. The action plan had been presented at a Joint Councillors meeting in March 2023, which they were supportive of. There was a real enthusiasm from Councillors and there would be further engagement with Councillors following the District Council elections in May 2023.
- Discussions had taken place with Devon and Plymouth Chambers regarding the Devon Improvement Plan and Skills Improvement Plan. There was a lot of business synonyms'. The CBI had recently published a clusters playbook whereby the Humber cluster was a national exemplar of good practice.
- Over the past few years, businesses had heard frequently that development skills plan would make a difference and there had been a lot of surveys and engagement with businesses. There was concern that smaller businesses with their time pressures may not engage, whereas larger businesses had more capacity to engage and therefore have a louder voice.

Pete Morrish provided an update on the work of the sub group as follows:

- The next meeting of the sub group on 21 April 2023, whereby the action plan would be considered and further feedback was expected. The sub group would also be considering the delivery plan.
- The next stage would be present back the revised action plan to the Board.

The Board discussed the following:

- That the DFE had mandated the engagement with employers and engagement had been good. There was a need to understand what employers required in the future.

- Petroc had drafted a response to the consultation with the DFE. There was a need to gain an understanding of future employers' requirements and ambitions so that colleges were more employer led.
- The Devon Devolution bid included funding, training and skills. The final bid was currently in the process of being finalised which would then go through to Parliament. The business case needed to be approved by all partners prior to submission to Parliament.
- LEPs would not be funded after March 2024 and all Local Authorities were required to have devolution deals in place. The deadline for the Devon bid was 4 May 2023 (which was a combined authority without a Mayor excluding Plymouth and Torbay).
- It was unclear how the Government would be taking forward the Great South West. There was a need to elevate the opportunities available in the Green and Blue economies over the next few years.
- The T- Level programme had not been paused. There was a requirement for more input from employers regarding the relevance of some of the T-Levels. Petroc would be launching 6 new T-Levels in September, however there was a need for input and support from employers in terms of offering industry work placements. There were currently 500 applications for T-Levels and it was expected that this would increase to 750 over 7 programmes.
- The Secretary of State had changed over the last 12 months. The Government would be looking at the local skills plans more so over the next 6-12 month period as it could see positive changes led by local plans.

Action:

- (a) That further engagement take place with Joint Councillors on the action plan following the District Council elections in May 2023.

c. Children and Young People

Nicola Allen provided an update on the work of the sub group as follows:

- Andy Ogden, Tarka Learning Partnership was not able to take on the role as Chair due to other commitments.
- Links were still in place with NORDAB. The group had rebranded to Education Futures, North Devon Partnership and was attended by the Heads of the local Secondary Schools and Petroc.
- Membership for this group was being increased to include Chief Executives of Multi Academy Trusts.

Sean Mackney provided an update as follows:

- The Education and Futures Devon Partnership worked across North Devon collaboratively with secondary school level and included activity strands: CPD, behaviour, attendance, and curriculum. There was a need to get the Multi-

academy trusts and secondary schools to work collaboratively together in relation to youth work and mental health. There was a need to start at pre-school age.

The Board discussed the following:

- The Northern Devon Voluntary Service provide funding opportunities to help young people to raise their aspirations. There were a number of local organisations that had a focus on youth including Inspire South West, Haymakers, and Sunrise.
- Important to get young people engaged as it had an impact on anti-social behaviour. One good example of a community taking the lead and engaging with young people was Skate Molton. There was a need for a representative from the youth service to be a member of the sub group.
- There were around 1,000 mini police cadets who went into primary schools at an early age and there was a lot happening within schools in Barnstaple, but not other areas.
- Petroc was looking at how it could improve enrichment to give young people different way of engaging and role models.
- The impact of Covid over the past 12-18 months of the behaviour of young people and anti-social behaviour was now at a much higher level.

d. Health and Wellbeing (One Northern Devon)

Andrea Beacham provided an update on the work of the sub group as follows:

- The Integrate Care System was now set in state at a Devon level and that there was an Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership who reports to the Department of Health and Social Care.
- There was an Integrated Health and Social Care Board at a Northern Devon level and outlined the Board's responsibilities.
- This Board would work integrally through the Northern Devon Board and join up with locality working groups to avoid duplication.

Sean Mackney advised the Board of the HALO project (young people's mental health) was now working with community organisations, schools, colleges and employers which was a good example of working together.

Action:

- (a) Secretariat to arrange for the links to the latest One Communities report, Health Aging Northern Devon (HAND) report and Cost of Living Crisis report be circulated to the Board for information.

6) Climate Group report – Climate Change in Northern Devon and the impacts to different sectors

Andy Bell was still not present and it was agreed that Donna Sibley continue with her presentation and update to the Board.

Donna Sibley provided an update on the work of the sub group as follows:

- How climate change would affect Northern Devon.
- Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change 6th Assembly report – March 2023.
- Current science.
- Degrees of global warming – 5% change of staying below 2 degrees warming.
- Extent to which current and future generations would experience a hotter/different work was dependent upon choices made now and in the near term.
- What this meant for Northern Devon.
- Impact of climate change on agriculture and forestry.
- Coastal Change management map for Braunton and Barnstaple.
- Impacts on our key sectors.
- Impacts on tourism – predicated coastal change map for Westward Ho! and for Bideford which looked quite different.
- National Trust climate hazards and how heat might impact on those areas with 2 degree and 4 degree increase scenarios.
- Impact on health - index of multiple deprivation 2019
- Devon Carbon Plan published in 2022 which set objectives of what was needed to get to net zero by 2050.
- Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy which was out for consultation in May 2023 and the Board would be notified once the consultation period had commenced.
- Devon Climate Declaration which some organisations had signed up to. Petroc would confirm whether they had signed up to the declaration.
- Devon Climate Emergency website contained lots of useful information.
- Andy Bell would be appointed Chair of the Sub Group. The terms of reference were currently being drafted and the first meeting would be held shortly.
- The Councils were working with 361 across North Devon and Torridge in relation to householders retrofit. It was anticipated that there would be more funding availability shortly. The Councils were working with businesses in relation to the energy crisis on the “Decarbonise Devon” scheme to gain an understanding of energy bills and carbon footprint and then link the businesses to the funds that were available. This scheme was free until July 2023 <https://devonenergycic.co.uk/our-projects/decarbonise-devon/>.
- The Biosphere Reserve had submitted lottery bids for climate change and ecological energy.

- The increase in temperatures would make it warmer in the UK, however the equator region and the Mediterranean would become inhabitable and would also have an impact on food supply.

Tim Jones provided an update on the work of the Biosphere Reserve and advised the following:

- Positive discussions had taken place with South West Water and energy utilities.
- Hydration characteristics of soils were currently being analysed.
- Investors were looking enthusiastically currently.
- The managing of sequestration of trees was very important and would change the way that land was farmed.
- Trees located in inter tidal and marine areas captured carbon differently. There was a national and international programme in relation to producing a seed stock for sea grass.

7) NDF Board Logo and website/Public Visibility of NDF

Bill Blythe provided an update on the work that had been undertaken since the last meeting of the Board in relation to the Board's logo and website:

- It was raised at the last meeting of the Board and the associated working groups had no public presence. This was leading to concerns that there was a "secret group".
- Plan to create a website with domain names of either Northerndevonfutures.org.uk or Northern-Devon-Futures.org.uk.
- Website would display the vision, mission, board composition etc.
- Board Agenda and non-confidential minutes would be published on the website and separate page(s) for each sub group and document repository (public and private).
- Logo designs had been created by a Petroc student currently studying a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Media Production and Technology based on a sea and tree format. These designs were shown to the Board.

Action:

- (a) It was agreed that the preferred option was the word version and that the Secretariat liaise with the student regarding designs and the use of a single design in colour that could be used on different applications for different channels and that the logo be presented to the next Board for approval.
- (b) That the concept for the website be agreed and that the domain name be Northern-Devon-Futures.org.uk and that the launch date be agreed by the Board.

8) Board Discussion of Theme for Next Meeting, Meeting Date and Venue

The Board agreed that:

- (a) That the Secretariat arrange a half day in person workshop during May/early June 2023 to review the Boards objectives and actions and to consider the Board's response to housing, skills and climate and that a doodle poll be carried out to check members of the Board availability.

9) Any other business

There was no other business to be discussed.

Meeting ended at 11.57 a.m.