

## **Northern Devon Futures Board**

Notes of a meeting of the Northern Devon Futures Board held at NODE, Roundswell, Barnstaple on Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

### PRESENT:

Nicola Allen, Petroc  
Andrea Beacham, One Northern Devon  
Bill Blythe, Petroc  
Phillip Butterworth, Arts Council England (virtual)  
Keri Denton, DCC (virtual)  
Dominie Dunbrook, North Devon Council  
Alan Dykes, TDK Lambda (virtual)  
Chris Fuller, Torridge District Council  
Councillor Rufus Gilbert, Economy and Skills DCC (virtual)  
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  
Donna Sibley, NDC/TDC  
Jon Walter, Torridge District Council  
Councillor David Worden, Leader of NDC  
Dr John Womersley, One Northern Devon (virtual)

### 1) Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Toby Davies, Devon and Cornwall Police Constabulary  
Alison Mills, NDC  
Jon Triggs, NDC  
Andy Bell, Biosphere Reserve  
David Ralph, Heart of SW and LEP  
Stuart Brocklehurst, Applegate  
Selaine Saxby MP

Sean Mackney congratulated Stuart Brocklehurst on his appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Exeter University.

## 2) Notes of last meeting held on 13 October 2022

The Board considered and noted the notes of the last meeting held on 13 October 2022 (circulated previously).

Matters arising:

### (a) Devon Youth Parliament

Nicola Allen advised that she had been unsuccessful in making contact with a representative from the Devon Youth Parliament.

David Hoare advised that he had a contact for the Devon Youth Parliament.

## 3) Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were announced.

## 4) Census 2021 Update, Labour Market and Travel to Work

The Board received a presentation by Jon Walter regarding the Census 2021 Update, Labour Market and Travel to Work. He highlighted the following:

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population in England and Wales was 59,597,300 (56,489,800 in England and 3,107,500 in Wales); this was the largest population ever recorded through a census in England and Wales.
- New statistical releases had been issued on Median Age, Labour market and travel to work and Education.
- Population change between 2011 and 2021, local authorities in England and Wales.
  - **Torridge District Council:**
    - 2021 – 68,100
    - 2011 – 63,839
    - Change - +6.7%
  - **North Devon Council**
    - 2021 - 98,600
    - 2011 - 93,700
    - Change - +5.3%
- Population change (%) by age group 2011 to 2021
  - Torridge comparison - there has been an increase of 30.2% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 0.6% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 1.6% in children aged under 15 years.
  - North Devon comparison - There has been an increase of 22.1% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 0.1% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 1.3% in children aged under 15 years.
- Median age calculated from the agenda of residents in England and Wales:

- North Devon Median age 45 in 2011 – 3 year increase
- Torrridge Median age 47 in 2011 – 4 year increase
- Labour Market and Travel to work – top 10 industry divisions in 2021 with 2011 figures for comparison, usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment, England and Wales. To 5 industries were retail, education, health, construction, public admin and defence. Biggest movers: increase compute (14<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>) and decrease financial services (10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>).
- Top 5 Industries:
  - North Devon – Health and Social work; wholesale, retail, repair motor vehicles; construction; manufacturing; education
  - Torrridge – health and social work; wholesale, retail, repair motor vehicles; construction; education; manufacturing.
- Percentage of usual residents aged 16 years and over who were economically active and in employment 2011 and 2021 – both Torrridge and North Devon had a 3.5% decrease since 2011.
- Economically inactive. 42.7% of people aged 16 years and over in North Devon were economically inactive and 45.4% in Torrridge.
- Retired – 29.3% of people aged 16 years and over in North Devon were retired and 32% in Torrridge.
- Unemployed (including full-time students) – 2.4% of people aged 16 years and over in North Devon and Torrridge were unemployed (including full time students).
- Of people aged 16 years and over not in employment who worked in the last 12 months – 11.9% of people in North Devon aged 16 years and over not in employment have worked in the last 12 months and 10% in Torrridge.
- Of people aged 16 years and over not in employment and not worked in the last 12 months – 72.3% in North Devon and 74.3% in Torrridge.
- Never worked – 15.9% of people aged 16 years and over not in employment in North Devon and have never worked and 15.6% in Torrridge.
- The number of hours people work per week part time, 15 hours or less – 12.5% in North Devon and 12.8% in Torrridge.
- The number of hours people work per week part time, 16 to 30 hours – 23.5% in North Devon and 24.4% in Torrridge.
- The number of hours people work per week full time, 31 to 48 hours – 52.3% in North Devon and 49% in Torrridge.
- The number of hours people work per week full time, 49 hours or more – 11.7% in North Devon and 13.8% in Torrridge.
- Occupation – main job managers, directors or senior officials – 12.7% in North Devon and 12% in Torrridge.
- Occupation – main job in professional occupations – 15.3% in North Devon and 12.6% in Torrridge.
- Occupation – main job in associate professional or technical occupations – 11.2% in North Devon and 9.6% in Torrridge.

- Occupation – main job in administrative or secretarial occupations – 8% in North Devon and 8.4% in Torrridge.
- Occupation – main job in skilled trades occupations – 15.9% in North Devon and 18.8% in Torrridge.
- Occupation – main job in caring, leisure or other service occupations – 10.8% in North Devon and 12.4% in Torrridge.
- Occupation – main job in sales or customer service occupations – 7.5% in North Devon and 7.8% in Torrridge.
- Occupation – main job process, plan or machine operatives – 7.2% in North Devon and 7.4% in Torrridge.
- Occupation – main job in elementary occupations – 11.4% in North Devon and 11% in Torrridge.
- Self-employed – 16.10% in North Devon and 18.20% in Torrridge.
- Distance between home and work in kilometres less than 10 km – 38.4% in North Devon and 27.3% in Torrridge.
- Distance between home and work in kilometres 10km to less than 30km – 16% in North Devon and 22.5% in Torrridge.
- Distance between home and work in kilometres more than 30km – 4.7% in North Devon and 5.9% in Torrridge.
- Works mainly from home – 24.3% in North Devon and 25.9% in Torrridge.
- Travel to work method – North Devon Top 4 excluding work from home (Driving car/van, on foot, passenger in car/van, bicycle) and Torrridge Top 4 excluding work from home (driving ca/van, on foot, passenger in car/van, bus, minibus or coach).
- Education – no qualifications – 17.8% in North Devon and 18.8% in Torrridge.
- Education highest level 1 – 11.1% in North Devon and 11.5% in Torrridge.
- Education highest level 2 – 15.5% in North Devon and 15.8% in Torrridge.
- Education highest apprenticeship – 6.8% in North Devon and 7.3% in Torrridge.
- Education highest level 3 – 17.8% in North Devon and 17.6% in Torrridge.
- Education highest level 4 and above – 28.5% in North Devon and 26.2% in Torrridge.
- Education highest vocational/work related – 2.6% in North Devon and 2.8% in Torrridge.
- The remaining topic summaries will be published in a rolling programme throughout early 2023, followed by multivariate data and analysis: health, disability and unpaid care.

Following the presentation, the Board discussed the following:

- Whether the not employed data included retired people.
- High level of sickness which may have an impact of the high level of unemployment.
- Data on level 4+ education had not yet been released.
- The use of bus to travel to work was quite low compared to national data.
- High percentage of skilled traders and apprentices.

- Opportunities to progress from level 2 education onto levels 3 and 4.
- Levels 1 and 2 education were high, level 3 was average and much lower percentage for level 4 and above.
- There were opportunities to study at level 3 both taught and through apprenticeships, however these opportunities were not being taken up.
- Employers needed to look at offering flexible working and the skills required as there had been a change in the number of hours people worked and the way that they worked.
- Under 50 years age population were more likely to have attended University which would affect the data in relation to the number of people having higher level of education.
- Whether there were sufficient job opportunities for apprentices to move into.
- Higher percentage of inactive high skilled people who had retired to the area.
- Relatively low % of skilled professionals, which was the main area for development.
- How many people moved to go to University and did not return to the area.
- Petroc was in the process of developing a University centre.
- Data showed an indication that there was less migration of skills and people moving to the area than was previously thought.
- More detailed migration data would be produced over the coming months.

Actions:

- (a) That a copy of the presentation slides be circulated to members of the Board.
- (b) Jon Walter to check whether agriculture had decreased in terms of employment as it was not in the top 5 employment and if the economically inactive data included those who had retired.
- (c) That comparison Census data with the South West be presented to the next meeting of the Board to enable the Board to understand the differences and similarities and consider appropriate interventions.

#### 5) Economy Innovation and Skills report

The Board received a presentation by Pete Morrish and Chris Fuller regarding the outcomes of the Economy, Innovation and Skills Board.

They highlighted the following:

- Gathering intelligence – draft Green Paper Snapshot for Northern Devon.
- Ambitious Goal “Developing an Innovative, Vibrant and Inclusive Northern Devon Economy” – how can we approach this.
- The Challenge – the list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were large. How do we meet the needs of the regions stakeholders? How do we prioritise? How do we clearly define the purpose? Learning from the work of Professor Michael E. Porter.
- Porter argues that traditional approaches are not working.

- Adopting Porter’s approach for Northern Devon.
- What is competitiveness?
- Focusing on Blue creates bigger opportunities for Orange.
- SWOT 2014 and 2022 gathering intelligence. 2014 SWOT taken from the last full Northern Devon Economic Development Plan and 2022 SWOT completed by EIS board members.
- Looking back what’s changed since 2014 SWOT
- Initial takeaways from 2022 SWOT
- Next steps – prioritising and setting targeted goals. Initial EIS workshops were held during November and December 2022 to identify key objectives and actions.
- Key themes emerging from workshops so far – focus on raising competitiveness.

Following the presentation, the Board discussed the following:

- Critical to engage business skills and there was a statistic for Petroc on meeting the skills needs.
- Further investigation would be undertaken on the net input and export for Northern Devon.
- Tracking importation of all goods.
- The work of the Board would lead to the development of the next Economic Strategy for the area.
- Cornwall was now seeing payback from European funding.
- Plymouth was tackling problems with social housing to transform the city.
- Still struggling to identify where the skills gaps were and there was a need to upskill the existing workforce.
- Warwick University’s work with the Warwick manufacturing group was a good example of innovation.
- How do you build into the model about taking communities with you and there was a need for community building to be part of this work.
- Lack of opportunities in employment and within communities.
- There was a need to make communities proud again.
- Work that was been undertaken across Northern Devon needed to be communicated.
- Phil Adams had further data regarding importing and exporting.
- There was a need to recognise and understand the supply chains and linking in with other parts of the region’s economy.
- Digital skills – there was funding available to deliver digital skills training.
- There was a need to consider how the NHS and health could link into this work.

#### 6) 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)

Dominie Dunbrook advised the Board that Marie Gould had now been appointed Chair of the Group (CEO of the Northern Devon Voluntary Service). The next meeting of the Group would be held at the end of January and a further meeting would then be scheduled to start to consider the action plan priorities for the group. The group was mindful that it was a cross cutting them group and would look at how it could tackle smaller issues. The group would check regularly that the action plan did not impact and impinge on other action plans.

The Board discussed the following:

- Devon Housing Commission had set up a Housing Task Force which would be meeting next week. The Task Force needed to link into the Board. Ken Miles and Councillor Ken James sat on the Task Force.
- The Devon Districts Forum would be meeting next week and considering the issue of housing.
- Employers were experiencing difficulties in recruiting as a result of lack of housing, however it was difficult to find evidence which it would be useful if the group could start to produce evidence for Northern Devon.
- The review of the Northern Devon Local Plan would be commencing shortly.

Action:

- (a) That the secretariat consider how the work of the Housing Task Force linked to Northern Devon and to the Place and Community (Housing) Action Group.

b. Children and Young People

Nicola Allen advised that discussions had taken place with the CEO of Tarka Learning Partnership regarding Chairing the Group who would not be able to confirm until February 2023. The 3 key actions for the group were: student outcomes, services and special needs provision, Off Shore start ventures.

The Board discussed the following:

- £5m research project by HALO in relation to adult and adolescence mental health. This project was focused on 2 areas, Newham and Northern Devon and would look to design systems and interventions to promote good mental health. One Northern Devon had been involved in developing the bid due to the health inequalities in the area.

c. Climate Emergency (Environment)

Donna Sibley advised that she had volunteered to commence the work of the group. Discussions had taken place with the secretariat regarding the role of the group. Discussions had been held with Andy Bell regarding chairing the group and she was waiting for confirmation. It was hoped that the Carbon Chain Mitigation plan report would be available in February 2023.

d. Health and Wellbeing (One Northern Devon)

Andrea Beacham provided an update on the Health Equity Strategy and the work of Marmit Place. The second workshop had been held in November 2022 and the main outcomes were: mental health and wellbeing, tackling loneliness and supporting young people from deprived backgrounds into good jobs. The Group also looked at what could be done in terms of design principles to make improvements. OND was also working with the two District Councils on the Cost of Living Crisis and was looking at gaps and how to use collective resources to fill these gaps. There was also opportunity to link into the Regional Innovation Strategy led by the Academic Science Networks for the South West. She also provided an update on the Poverty Truth Commission and Northern Devon was the first pilot area in the South West. Further details would be communicated in due course.

Action:

- (a) Secretariat to consider the next stage of work of the Group.

7) NDF Board Logo and website

Bill Blythe asked for the Board's views on the creation of a logo and website for the NDF to ensure that there was wider visibility and repository of information on the work of the Board.

Action:

- (a) Secretariat to consider the creation of a logo and website for the NDF.

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

The Board agreed that:

- (a) The theme for the next Board meeting "Climate"
- (b) That the next meeting be scheduled early April 2023 and that the Secretariat send a Doodle Poll to the Board to check availability.
- (c) That an alternative venue be sought for the location of the next meeting of the Board such as Caddsdwn.



9) Any other business

(a) Celtic Sea Proposals

Tim Jones provided an update to the Board on the Celtic Sea Proposals following a recent briefing. The area of licensing was promoted by the Crown Estates and would be located 40-60km off shore. There were 5 areas of search. The turbines would be 50mw. Programme was to put a turbine in place every 1 ½ weeks over the next 6 years. From positioning of the turbines, it would take 3 years to become operational, which would then automatically trigger a maintenance regime. It was expected that the job generation would be 28,000 jobs. There were currently 24 development bidders in the process. The Celtic Sea Board were currently in discussions with Wales, but not the south West regarding supply chain. Exeter University had developed good technical competences for the supply chain.

Chris Fuller advised that following the Westminster briefing, there was a need to develop pressure on the Crown Estate regarding the involvement of communities and the social benefits of the proposals. He and Dominic Dunbrook were working closely with DCC and the LEP.

(b) South West Social Mobility Commission

Tim Jones advised that the first meeting of the South West Social Mobility Commission would be held on 1 March 2023. The social mobility report had already identified different approaches in rural and coastal areas. He would keep the Board updated.

Meeting ended at 4.33 p.m.