



Draft Minutes
Northern Devon Futures Board Meeting
Thursday 23 May 2024
09.30 – 12.00
In person meeting at CMTG, Torrington

Present

Marie Gould, NDVS and Chair of Place and Community NDF Action Group
Tim Jones, SW Business Council and North Devon Plus
Mike Matthews, Lineal
Peter Morrish, Condition Monitoring Technology Group and Chair of the NDF Economy, Innovation and Skills Action Group
Ken Miles, NDC
Marc Rostock, North Devon Homes Ltd. (virtual)
Alan Dykes, TDK Lambda
Keri Denton, Director of Performance and Partnerships DCC (virtual)
Louise Higgins, NHS and Chair of Health and Wellbeing Group
Philip Butterworth, Arts Council (virtual)
Andrew Bell, Director of UNESCO Biosphere Northern Devon
Stuart Elford, Devon and Plymouth Chamber (virtual)
Councillor David Clayton (virtual)
Donna Sibley, Sustainability and Climate Officer, North Devon and Torridge Councils (virtual)
Toby Davies, Superintendent Devon and Cornwall Police
Ian Masters, Senior estates surveyor Devon and Cornwall Police

In attendance

Bill Blythe, Petroc
Dominie Dunbrook, North Devon Council
Sarah Jane Mackenzie-Shapland, Head of Place ND Council (virtual)
Jon Walter, Torridge District Council
Paul Whiting, Petroc
Alex Farmery, Petroc (minutes)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sean Mackney (chair), Steve Hearse, Ken James, Andrea Beacham

It was agreed that Ken Miles would chair this meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

No declarations were received.

3. Minutes and Matters arising, Actions

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Actions from 1 November 2023

| No. | Action | Owner | Due Date | Status/update |
|-----|--------|-------|----------|---------------|
|-----|--------|-------|----------|---------------|

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|----|---|---------------|------------------|---|
| 1. | Website Launch by next meeting | Secretariat | 22 February 2024 | Website will be launched after this meeting by the End of May |
| 2. | List of Priority Actions for Community & Place Action Group | Board members | 22 February 2024 | Discuss as part of the strategy which identifies a smaller set of priorities. |

4. Draft strategy and KPIs

It was confirmed that the strategy and the KPIs had been discussed individually at Action Group and Board level and all changes had been considered in the final drafts.

Each Action Group had submitted their own objectives and KPIs and it was agreed that the Board and Action Groups implement and embed these so the partnership could add value to Northern Devon. A communications team will need to be established to ensure the pillars and objectives get revisited regularly.

Petroc assured the Board that the strategy will be mapped to its new 2025-30 strategy.

It was agreed to add the pillars from the strategy to every meeting agenda and start tracking any actions and progress. It was also agreed to keep the website up to date with relevant information and Board meetings to take place every quarter.

The Board approved the NDF Strategy and the KPIs.

5. NDF Website

<https://wordpress-485156-4230912.cloudwaysapps.com/>

The Board discussed the contents and layout of the website and agreed:

- Small change to the About us page
- Any questions that come in through the Contact form will be distributed by AF or PW accordingly to answer, however, responses will need to be monitored by the chair and potentially by the Board at the meetings
- Check inbox regularly
- Hosting of the website will be provided by Roots Creative
- AF to circulate link for the website to the Board once gone live
- Publication of the website scheduled for w/c 27 May 2024

The Board approved the layout and content of the website ready to launch.

6. Health and Wellbeing

Louise Higgins introduced a One Northern Devon update to the Board with a presentation (attached to the minutes)

The update covered current themes from public health data and engagement, challenges for One Northern Devon such as

- Rural and coastal challenges
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Geographical setting
- Poor transport infrastructure



- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty

As well as some excellent project work and good news stories.

7. To note the reports from NDF Action Groups

7.1 Children & Young People

A brief update was provided confirming that the first meeting had been held, the KPIs had been agreed and the group were now seeking for a Chair.

7.2 Economy, Innovation and Skills

The group submitted a report updating the Board on:

- Economic strategy to be finalised and published in the near future
- Networking meeting on clean maritime sector
- "Makers map" is progressing working closely with local organisations such as the NDMA
- Kelly Brend (Brend Hotels) had joined the group to represent hospitality and tourism
- Ensure action plan is aligned with the economic strategy
- Maximise use of existing infrastructure

It was decided to add an "Ambassador Role" description and Terms of Reference to the NDF website. This will enable individuals to engage and promote NDF in their roles, using the NDF banner to highlight projects of shared interest.

Action – DD to send description to AF and present paper to the next Board meeting

Comments received from the group included:

- Ensure that Travel to work distances and transport links are included in the Makers map
- North Devon infrastructure gaps need to be captured from all groups
- NDF needs an oversight of the joint local housing plan
- Get sight of the local transport plan
- Start North Devon place story similar to Torridge place board

7.3 Climate

It was reported that no meetings had taken place since the February Board meeting, however the group were sourcing a speaker on the "just transition to net zero" for their next meeting; also, a bid for net zero for £100k had been won by Torridge and North Devon to develop a hydrogen roadmap.

Another interesting project could be reverting diesel engines to hydrogen.

The group has secured a shared outcomes fund from the UK UNESCO looking at climate change and heritage.

7.4 Place & Community

The Place and Community group submitted a report highlighting any progress made and any activities that have taken place since the last meeting as well as opportunities and issues.

The group was asking the Board as to where the priorities for the group were and if the infrastructure requirement could be picked up by the Board instead of just the action group. It was suggested to have a rethink on the expectations from each group and to potentially split Place and Community into two separate groups.

Action – MG suggest definition of the group's remit, after which the Board can identify any gaps.

8. Board discussion of theme for next meeting, meeting date and venue

The Board briefly discussed the theme for the next meeting which would be Children and Young people according to the cycle of business, however, it was decided to schedule a meeting for August to discuss infrastructure with a presentation on housing.

8. X Links Consultation

The chair introduced the X Links Consultation group as the organisation behind the project that will be bringing solar power from Morocco into North Devon, covering 8% of the UK's annual electricity demand.

The Board considered to raise a voice and be part of the discussions on the consultation.

Action - Ken and Steve to pull together some points and circulate a draft consultation response to the Board before submission.

9. AoB

Action from November

9.1 The chair updated the Board on the Combined Authority which councils have now approved and conversations are ongoing around governance and the constitution and the groups below it, with one of the groups being business, economy and skills looking for representatives.

Action – KM/AF to circulate the recruitment information to the board

9.2 The Board agreed to extend an invitation to representatives from Homes England and the Crowne Estate to join the Board.

9.3 In light of the announcement of the General Election the Board agreed to write to Keri Denton on behalf of the partnership to enquire about any funding that is currently in the pipeline such as levelling up etc.

Action – BB to drop a line to Keri

Thank you to Peter Morrish and CMTG for hosting!!

The meeting closed at 12.22

The next meeting will take place in August 2024 at Petroc College