



Draft Minutes
Northern Devon Futures Board Meeting
Wednesday 14 August 2024
09.30 – 12.00
In person meeting at Petroc

Present

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 – Chair
Ken Miles – CEO North Devon Council
Marc Rostock, North Devon Homes Ltd.
Louise Higgins, NHS and Chair of Health and Wellbeing Group (virtual)
Councillor David Clayton
Toby Davies, Superintendent Devon and Cornwall Police
Rufus Gilbert – Devon County Council
Rosa Payne – Homes England
Councillor Ken James – Torridge District Council
Steve Hearse – CEO Torridge District Council
Andrew Beacham – One Northern Devon
Kay Brennan – Local GP and One Northern Devon
Ian Roome – MP
Chris Fuller – Torridge Council
Councillor David Worden – North Devon Council
Peter Leaver – Deputy Leader North Devon Council
Martin Slocombe – Energy361

In attendance

Bill Blythe, Petroc
Dominie Dunbrook, North Devon Council
Sarah Jane Mackenzie-Shapland, Head of Place North Devon Council (virtual)
Jon Walter, Torridge District Council
Kirsty Brown, Torridge District Council
Paul Whiting, Petroc
Alex Farmery, Petroc (minutes)
Zahara Hyde - Director of Estates for ND Hospital

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Andy Bell, Donna Sibley, Marie Gould and Keri Denton.

2. Declaration of Interests

No declarations were received.

It was recommended to elect an interim chair after Sean's resignation from the position of Principal and CEO at Petroc.
Peter Morrish was nominated as interim chair and unanimously accepted.

The new interim chair then took over chairing the meeting thanking the Board for the election and accepting the position.

3. Minutes and Matters arising, Actions

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

No.	Action	Owner	Due Date	Status/update
1.	Website Launch by next meeting	Secretariat	22 February 2024	Completed, needs updating with Interim chair etc
2.	List of Priority Actions for Community & Place Action Group NEW ACTION - MG to suggest definition of the group's remit, after which the Board can identify any gaps.	Board members	22 February 2024	
3.	X links consultation - Ken and Steve to pull together some points and circulate a draft consultation response to the Board before submission.	KM/SH		Not taken for approval, extension for deadline for consultation requested Steve to circulate the response from Torridge to the Board
4.	Email to Keri Denton regarding funding (such as levelling up) post-election	BB		Completed, with Phill Adams now Devolution document uploaded to the NDF website
5.	Present on "Ambassador Role" New Action - AF to invite Mark Burnett to the next Board Meeting (include in Agenda) for introduction of the work he has carried out	DD		This role represents and covers the different topics within Action Groups and amplifies the vision and messages, the ToR describes the parameters of the role. The "Ambassador" role was approved and can be adopted for each group

Clean marine strategy

It was reported that the overall document had been published on the NDF website, there were a couple more tweaks to it (an updated version will send as soon as it has been finalised) but concentrated on 5 cluster areas and 4 different metrics.

Cluster Areas:

- Aquaculture and Wild caught Fisheries
- Clean Propulsion and Ship Building
- Smart environmental intelligence
- Floating offshore Wind
- Green hydrogen

The next step was on how this would be launched, not just locally but also nationally with a potential launch at Westminster in October as well as starting to implement some of the actions that sit under those 5 clusters.

The new APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) that is supporting the Southwest will need to be approached as soon as possible to ensure support and involvement.

Torridge Place Story



It was reported that Torrington had been allocated a levelling up partnership from the previous government with the potential of £20m of funding for capital investment due to gaps in skills and education levels, life expectancy etc.

Torrington developed a place story, recruited consultants who held workshops across Torrington with appropriate stakeholders from different sectors.

The document that was put together was shared and approved by the Place Board.

There are discussions ongoing with the government to establish if this will be taken forward and by when, but so far there had been no communication back from the government.

It was suggested that it may be useful to widen this story to include North Devon.

The Place Story highlights the challenges in the area and wider geography and looks at opportunities for improvement and links in with the Clean Maritime for example.

It was suggested to take the opportunity and develop a Northern Devon Place Story and look at an overarching economic strategy, housing strategy and growth plan as part of the Devolution discussion.

The Board agreed to develop a Northern Devon Place Story.

It was noted that local MPs were currently renegotiating the Devolution Deal to ensure all areas of Devon (including Plymouth) are part of the deal.

It was suggested that potentially Health should be considered as part the new deal and a wider discussion by the Board was necessary in terms of health, workplace productivity and mental health at work and mental health in a general context.

It was requested to pick this up separately on the agenda at one of the next meetings.

Ilfracombe Focus

It was reported that despite multiple attempts levelling up funding for Ilfracombe has unfortunately been unsuccessful. With a new Government there may be an opportunity to request funds again.

It needed to be recognised that as one authority something needs to be done in Ilfracombe as it was the town with the highest deprivation levels and the lowest life expectancy.

It was requested for all Board members and Action group chairs to give consideration to this on their agendas and to try and raise this county wide and regionally.

It was agreed to ensure that the Ilfracombe task group would move forward with the help of both councils.

It was agreed not to lose focus on Ilfracombe and this was supported by the local MP and Homes England.

Action - Add Ilfracombe and Health to the forthcoming agenda.

Action – AB send statistics on Health Ilfracombe to the Board to give a better overall picture and also to IR to ensure it gets on the APPG agenda

The situation in Appledore with Harland & Wolff was briefly discussed and the Torrington council CEO would appreciate any support and/or ideas on how to develop / support some different scenarios.

Local plan update

NDC had committed to keeping the Board up to date on any changes and progress on the local plan.

It was reported that the government is committed to the levelling up and regeneration act, however the new process for plan making had just been delayed until September 2025.



Hence the comprehensive review of the plan will be delayed. Until then NDC is committed to collect data and evidence and has set up themed working groups which are aligned to the NDF action groups.

It was noted that new targets will be set to increase housing by over 60% meaning 1300 houses more per year, it was vital that with that the infrastructure around would also have to be increased.

A special strategy for the whole area was required as part of the local plan.

Transport/infrastructure

It was suggested to run the session developing a SWOT analysis on Northern Devon Transport and how the Northern Devon Transport Infrastructure:

- Supports the 2050 vision of your group (Strengths)
- Holds back the 2050 vision of your group (Weaknesses)
- Can be Developed to support the 2050 vision of your group (Opportunities)
- May degrade/not develop to make your group's 2050 vision impossible to achieve (Threats)

Outcome to effectively be able to produce a key asks document from NDF of those that have control over the deliverable of transport regionally, locally and/or nationally.

The Board proceeded to add comments to the Miro Board, which were then summarised at the end of the meeting – Appendix 1

[NDF Infrastructure Aug 24 SWOT - Miro](#)

AoB

Zahara Hyde, Director of Estates for ND Hospital presented to the Board on the future plans for the Hospital estate in North Devon.

It was reported that the estate is in a critical condition requiring urgent improvements, however that are logistical and infrastructure challenges as well.

It was agreed that IR would champion the much-needed improvements regionally and with the government to provide the necessary funds. ND hospital was one of the most remote hospitals in the UK and would need to be protected in order to protect the health and wellbeing of our population.

Our future Hospital presentation

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Q87mTXnxoz3yLRPjX6EpyEqKgGWUPfnt/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110289850488515722837&rt=pof=true&sd=true>

The Chair expressed his thanks to Sean for all his work over the last few years and to Bill for running the Secretariat.

The meeting closed at 12.00

A Doodle Poll will be sent out shortly with suggested dates for the next meeting.

Appendix 1

SWOT Analysis – Transport/Infrastructure – NDF Board meeting 14 August 2024

Link to the Miro Board - [NDF Infrastructure Aug 24 SWOT - Miro](#)

Strengths

- Active Travel Networks including cycling and walking routes, notably the Tarka Trail
- Car Sharing network
- Road and Rail Links to Tiverton and beyond

Weaknesses

- unsafe active travel routes
- poor rail and bus connectivity
- lack of integrated transport strategy
- Road links/network is insufficient/poor
- Poor rural connectivity
- Poor electricity and digital infrastructure
- Ambitious growth agenda not supported
- Lack of Ferry Services to Wales

Opportunities

- Autonomous vehicles
- Green Transport
- Active Travel Improvements
- Joined up Transport Planning
- Use our coastal routes
- Better Bus & Rail Links

Threats

- Climate impact on infrastructure
- Lack of investment in Rail and Road networks
- Transport issues impact on economy and Health
- Inactivity/Inertia
- Rural isolation and health issues

