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Establishing Priorities for Partnership Working

Mark Leeman

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Taunton Deane – where?

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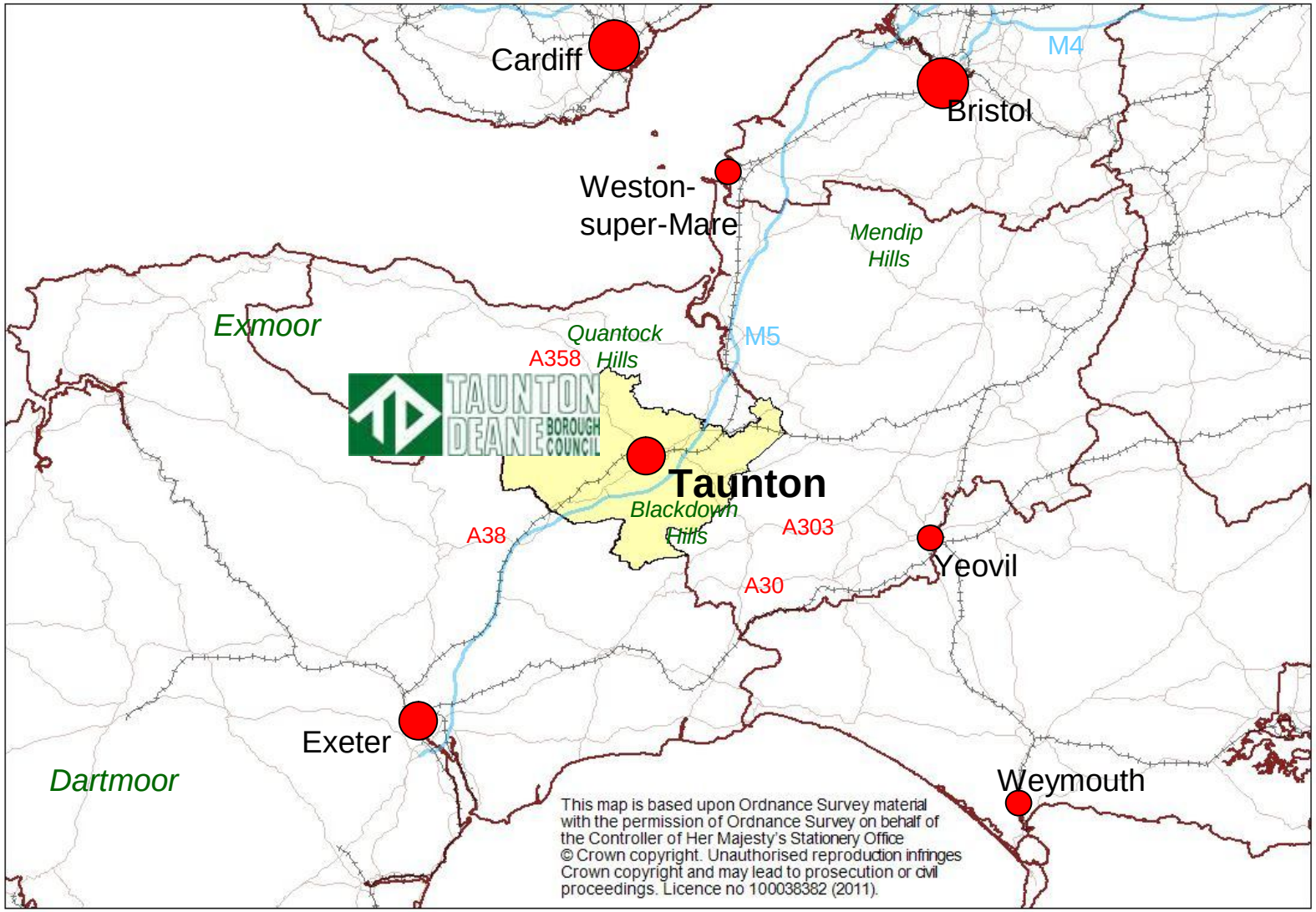

Key issues

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- Ageing population
- Young people leaving the area
- Child poverty (highest in Somerset)
- Over reliance on public sector for employment
- Cost of housing in relation to income
- Deprivation (significant urban and rural issues)

Strategic Partnership: Background

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- Taunton Deane Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) established in 2001 ‘the partnership of partnerships’
- Sustainable Community Strategy – 21 priorities (but no Action Plan…!)
- Linked to Local Area Agreement (LAA)
- Resources
  - Financial (shrinking)
  - Staff (responsibility of the Borough Council)

Triggers for change

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- Change of political leadership
- Withdrawal of upper tier authority from partnership working
- Collapse of support for the LAA
- No income
- Criticisms from long standing partners….'it's just a talking shop'
- New Chair and new supporting team
- Member challenge….'make it relevant'

What we did

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- Recognised the issues
- Convinced the LSP Board of need for review
- Applied for funding (Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership)
- Confidential interviews
- Identified issues and constraints
- Workshops – well attended and positive
- Map of partnerships
- Applied realism….focus on what we can achieve

A Fresh Start

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- Taunton Deane Partnership (TDP)
  - (all references to LSP have been dropped)

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Mission Statement

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"Through ambitious, efficient and effective partnership working we will address shared priorities and make positive change for everyone who lives, works or visits Taunton Deane."

New Priorities

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- Priority Areas
  - Urban
  - Rural
- Promoting Taunton Deane
- Planning Cycles

Priorities - Localism

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- Focus
  - Priority Areas (deprivation)
- Vision
  - Each area must determine their own destiny
- Delivery of Services
  - Commissioner of services / advisor
    - Public, private, voluntary / community sector
  - Health & Wellbeing Board / Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Community Capacity
  - Weak at the moment

TDP Action Plan 2011 – 2012

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Our Vision: *"Through ambitious, efficient and effective partnership working we will address shared priorities and make positive change for everyone who lives, works or visits Taunton Deane."*

Aims	Objectives	Key Activities	Performance Indicators
Priority Areas	Working collectively to improve urban areas of high need	1. Completion of Strategy and Action Plan by December 2011 2. Adopt a Total Place approach to delivery 3. Create a Funding Network	1. Improvement of IMD 2. Increase in volunteering 3. New models of service delivery 4. External Funding
	Working collectively to improve rural areas of high need	1.Completion of Strategy and Action Plan by June 2012 2. Adopt a Total Place approach to delivery 3. Create a Funding Network	1. Improvement of relevant rural PI's (to be determined) 2. Increase in volunteering 3. New models of service delivery 4. External Funding
Planning Cycles	Improve value for money and effectiveness by aligning planning & budget cycles	1.Prepare a detailed work programme by April 2011 2.Secure senior level commitment among partners agencies	1. Agreed priorities 2. Resources (staff and finances) allocated for key activities 3. Placed based budgets / pooled budgets
Promoting Taunton Deane	Celebrating achievements & raising the sense of pride through public events & good communications	1. Establish Action Group 2. Prepare a programme of activities by September 2011 3. Organise a TDP Forum event for 2011 / 2012	To be determined

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TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Priority Areas Strategy DASHBOARD July 2011
Phase 1: Benchmarking & Engagement

Status of Project	Last Report	This Report
Priority Areas Strategy (Phase 1)	G	G
Status by Key Project Activities for Phase 1 "Benchmarking & Engagement"	**Last Report**	**This Report**
1. Benchmarking (NT/TE) / KA 1.1 & 1.2	A	A
2. Community Engagement (NT/TE) / KA 1.1 & 1.2	G	G
3. Best Practice - Total Place / KA 1.3	G	G
4. Benchmarking (Rural) / KA 1.1 & 1.2	G	G
5. Staff Volunteering Scheme / KA 1.4	G	G
6. Enterprise Gateways / KA 2.1	G	G
7. Service Level Agreements (NT/TE) / KA 3.1	G	G
8. Asset Mapping	G	G
9. Out of Hours Telephony	G	A
10. Tell us Once Project	G	A
11. Visioning Event (21st July)	G	G

Key	
Red	Unsatisfactory progress – milestones & timescales not being met corrective action or re-plan required
Amber	Issues against some milestones but remedial action will keep project under control overall
Green	All milestones being met & project on target/completed
KA	Key Activity (Corporate Strategy)
NT/TE	North Taunton/Taunton East

Key Accomplishments LAST Period

- £130,000 secured towards delivery of customer access related work components (asset mapping, Tell Us Once, Customer Insight, Telly Talk, Out of Hours, New technologies (SMS / Text, Apps etc), Village Champions and Wellington Voluntary Hub
- First project newsletter produced (for release on July 4th 2011)
- Telly Talk and SIGNet demonstration events held with good attendance
- North Taunton benchmarking report completed by SW Observatory

Key Activities NEXT Period

- Tell us Once will launch across Somerset (DWP dependent)
- Benchmarking Reports (NT/TE and rural) to be circulated to partners and considered by TDBC Scrutiny (August 2nd)

Key Activities NEXT Period

- Complete the analysis of the response to the initial community consultation
- Visioning Event – 21st July (Somerset College)
- Scope and agree project work components beyond Visioning event
- Reassess governance arrangements to deliver effective links to SCC and other districts
- Refine SLAs with Link and Resource Centres
- Ongoing Management of Risks – identifying and agreeing mitigating measures for those risks with scores between a range of 15 and 25 in the risk register
- Refinement of the Draft PAS Communication Plan
- Develop person specification for appointment of person to sit within SiP
- Trip to Worcester (25th July 2011) to consider learning from national Total Place pilot project (urban and rural work components)

Issues

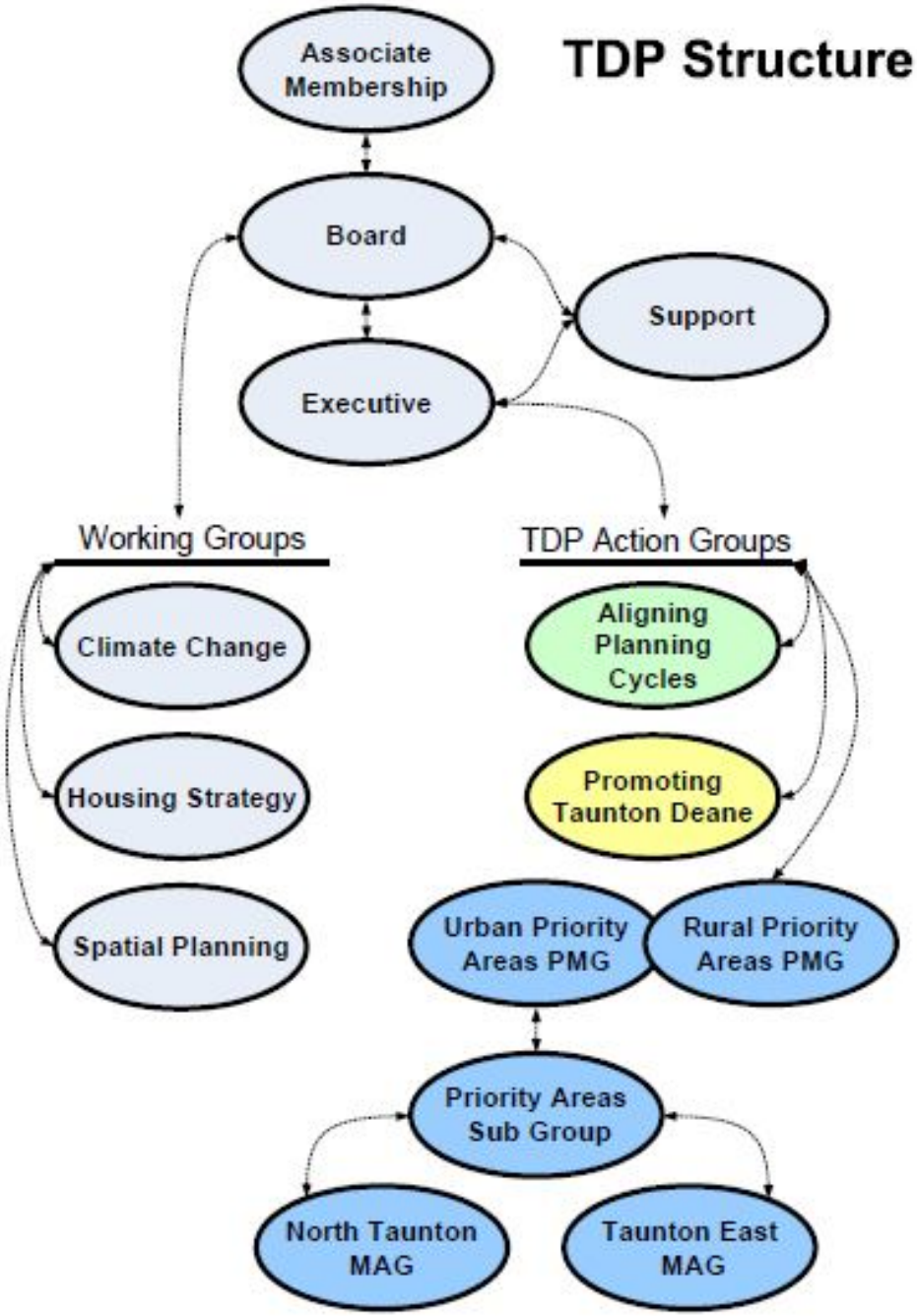
- None at this stage

Risks	Risk RAG
• Changing Landscape. Project recommendations may be undermined by cost cutting measures implemented by other agencies together with lack of high-level support (among some partners)	R

Recommendations and Requests for Decisions of Support

- None at this stage

TDP Structure



TDP Structure – May 2011

PMG = Project Management Group

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Other

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- Communications
- TDP member induction
- Partnership Agreement
- Scrutiny – Borough Council

Successes

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- Motivated
- Attracting new partners
- More partners taking on responsibilities
- Strategy alignment
- Project alignment
- Attracting funding
- Better councillor engagement

Key messages

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- Don’t give up on strategic partnerships
- Know your local issues
- Understand the political landscape
- Understand the partnership landscape
- Be able to show that the work is making a difference…monitor both processes and outcomes
- Scrutiny
- Communication
- Relationships
- KEEP IT SIMPLE!

Contact

Taunton Deane Partnership
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