

## **Item 6**

### **Potential New External Funding Opportunity**

#### **Greater Dartmoor Local Action Group (Local Action for Rural Communities)**

Local Action is the community led element of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), a funding programme designed to support the development of English rural areas between 2007 and 2013.

The core objectives of Local Action are:

- Addressing economic under performance;
- Improving provision and access to services as a means of tackling disadvantage;
- Harnessing wider economic value from sustainable environmental quality;
- Developing local governance and delivery capacity in rural areas.

Delivery will be through community-based partnerships known as Local Action Groups (LAGs).

As required by EU regulations, the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) will be running an open and competitive procedure for selecting Local Action Groups to run programmes in the region. Expressions of Interests need to be submitted to SWRDA by December 31 2007 and, if successful, full applications to be submitted by May 23 2008, with decisions on successful bids being made in July 2008.

An informal partnership representing public sector organisations and rural stakeholders is working together to develop a Greater Dartmoor Local Action Group. This informal partnership comprises:

- West Devon Borough Council;
- South Hams District Council;
- Teignbridge District Council;
- Dartmoor National Park Authority;
- Teignbridge Leader Plus;
- Devon Rural Network;
- Devon Renaissance.

The decision on the area coverage had to take account of the following:

- Was geographically coherent;
- Fell under the population limit of 150,000 people;

- Had a good fit with the key statistics;
- Had a high quality environment that could be used sustainably to benefit the economy.

The Greater Dartmoor LAG area covers the whole of Dartmoor and surrounding wards. This area includes the whole of West Devon, one ward in Mid Devon and surrounding wards / parishes in the South Hams and Teignbridge. We have fought hard to get as much coverage for the South Hams as possible. Wards / parishes included are:

Avon and Harbourne  
Bickleigh and Shaugh  
Cornwood and Sparkwell  
Dartington  
Eastmoor  
Ivybridge Central  
Ivybridge Filham  
Ivybridge Woodlands  
South Brent  
Totnes Bridgetown  
Totnes Town  
East Dart - Littlehempston (parish)  
East Dart - Berry Pomeroy (parish)  
West Dart - Ashprington (parish)  
Erme Valley - Ermington (parish)  
Erme Valley - Ugborough (parish)

At present potential themes for the LAG area are as follows:

Development of local supply chains and products;  
Rural Entrepreneurship;  
Harnessing the environment and culture;  
Improving access to and delivery of services.

If successful, we expect that the Greater Dartmoor Area LAG will secure funding of between £1.5m and £3m in size or £250,000 to £500,000/year. Consultations events are being held on November 20 and 21 2007.