

South Pennines Leader 2008 – 2014

Tracking Progress against the Local Development Strategy

In 2008 the South Pennines Leader Local Action Group submitted a Local Development Strategy (LDS) as part of its bid to establish a Leader area for the first time in the South Pennines. The bid included a programme of activity around the three European “measures” that the Managing Authority (at that time Yorkshire Forward, subsequently Defra) allocated to Leader groups in Yorkshire;

- Measure 321 : Provision of basic services
- Measure 322 : Village Renewal and Development
- Measure 323 : Renovation and Interpretation of local cultural or heritage features to contribute to wider economic and social agendas

The LDS examined the perceived needs and opportunities of the area and identified four main themes of activity for the Leader programme;

- To develop, promote and celebrate the South Pennines distinctive cultural heritage and landscape
- To develop and promote the strong “sense of place” felt by communities across the South Pennines;
- To assist in the promotion and development of the tourism and recreational economy in a sustainable manner
- To improve the quality of life of South Pennine communities by assisting in equitable access to services and allowing residents to benefit from sustainable community facilities.

Under these themes 10 key priorities were defined and this structure was used by the Local Action Group in deciding upon grants and investments throughout the life of the programme.

The following pages of this report track indicative progress against each of these 10 priorities, classing progress as good, average or poor. This classification is only for indicative guidance. Many defined priorities were written with such intentional wide-ranging scope that “achievement” of the objective would be impossible. This was done to ensure that there was flexibility built into the programme to allow community action to develop in a diverse manner. Even though the classification is generalistic, it does however provide a useful quick visual guide to where the programme has delivered most and least activity against the original priorities.

Overall the programme has closely followed the targets as set out in the Local Development Strategy and has largely followed the agreed vision in this respect with only a slight increase in emphasis on Measure 323 (see finance report).

South Pennines LEADER Priorities as set out in the LDS	Programmes of Activity identified in LDS	Actual activity delivered in programme 2008 - 2014	Good, average, or poor progress
SPLP1 Realising the unexploited potential of recreational use of the area's cultural heritage	Improving recreational access focusing on;		
	i) The creation and development of walking/cycling/riding routes in key locations, reducing the need for car traffic, improving linkages from public transport nodes, improving access for all, and enhancing access to key services/sites;	A number of projects have been delivered under this theme both directly (Marsden pathways, Walk & Ride and Canal Connections commissioned projects) and through the Watershed Landscape project. There has been extensive spend on developing strategic routes over the period in each of the Local Authority areas covered.	
	ii) Extension of Walkers are Welcome type initiatives;	Walk & Ride Festival has worked significantly with these groups. The programme has supported these groups where they have made applications for funding, but has not sought to actively extend the network. .	
	iii) Research projects which interpret and make accessible the history of ancient routes;	A number of historic trails have been developed as part of the programme eg Pennine Heritage (2 routes), Reservoirs Trails (6 routes) etc	
	iv) Linking with health initiatives to develop routes that will benefit disadvantaged groups;	Walking for Health routes have been included within the Festival programme. Canal towpath investment has improved this accessible route.	
	v) Working with tourism providers to identify and improve access to attractions / accommodation / tourist facilities.	Linkages between the Local Distinctiveness project and the W&R Festival have developed work around this theme.	
	Using technology to create a sense of place focusing on;		
	i) Geocaching for the South Pennines	Geocaching training has been undertaken and trails developed for literary, historic and environmental purposes through the Watershed Landscape project. Projects have been undertaken within schools and events included in Walk & Ride Festival	
	ii) Use of mediascapes technology to blend images, video and audio with linkages to walkers GPS	Limited application of this and other UK wide websites have been more pro-active in providing this function.	
	Canal development focusing on a common trans Pennine asset to improve interpretation, signage, shared events, canal boat promotion, development of sustainable recreation towpaths, linking existing activity of canal partnerships	Extensive programme of activity has been delivered around the Canal Connections project	
SPLP2 Creating a collective voice and cultural image for the South Pennines	Creation of effective media vehicles for sharing information across the South Pennines for both residents and visitors focusing initially on re-evaluation and revamping of the South Pennines tourism newspaper and its distribution	Development of South Pennines website as a central resource with associated map and business resources. It was not viewed as sustainable or economically effective to produce a tourism newspaper.	
	Developing promotional packages that raise the profile of the South Pennines in terms of its heritage, culture, educational potential etc focusing on;		
	i) Production of a walking/cycling/riding web site with linkages to a calendar of events with GPS links, links to aural history etc	Walk & Ride website developed with extensive number of routes. Calendar of events developed – linked to South Pennines website.	
	ii) Production of educational resources for use with schools etc	Educational resource, workshops, programmes of activity developed with schools across the area.	
	iii) Production of display/publicity/roaming exhibition material	Extensive development of permanent displays (eg Brownhills) and touring exhibitions	
	iv) Development and promotion of local distinctive "trails" (e.g. Food trails and Local Beer trail to link micros breweries)	eg Here for the Beer, linkages btw walking routes and pubs.	
Renewing/ completing the network of gateway markers, route stops and development of new gateway and route promotion.	Number of "gateway" sites improved with interpretation material.		

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	Coordination and promotion of currently scattered cultural activities to provide types of "packaged" programme e.g. rural touring programme, programme of youth theatre, linking museum networks and events	Extensive use of museums for exhibition of themed works, but no "package" of youth theatre etc.	
	"Great People Great Places". Linking themed festivals with joint promotion and development (looking at innovative ways of transporting people between sites/activities), particularly supporting the development of organisational and marketing skills amongst volunteers.	Local Distinctiveness project looking at packaged programme eg Making & Doing Festival. South Pennines website looking at linkages also.	
	Development of a trans national project, (possibly with Enschede, Holland) based on a rural sense of place linking urban and rural, giving people an increased sense of historical linkage and place. To include a festival of wool.	Project developed by Bradford Council, but nothing delivered through Leader Programme	
SPLP3 Improving knowledge of our heritage : research and development	Improved access to landscapes / sites of historic / cultural importance linked to coordinated promotion of the area's heritage focusing on various local history and heritage projects that are emerging across the South Pennines.	This is at the core of programme and most projects touch on this.	
	Appointment of community archaeologist to cover the South Pennines working with local groups to provide advice and support eg WYGT, Northern Mines Research Group.	Award winning element of Watershed Landscape project. The project placed South Pennines on the European stage and involved a very high number of community volunteers, increasing their knowledge and skills base as well as building an extensive archaeological academic resource. .	
	Supporting local history initiatives including research and publications, linking of archive databases, joint promotion.	South Pennines history group has brought the previously disparate groups together – 2 large scale research projects funded and made accessible to researchers.	
	Improving interpretation and looking at best practice for restoration of the unique built heritage that exists in the South Pennines focusing on "Knowing our Boundaries" / "Stories in Stone", dry stone walling projects, boundary stone interpretation, ginnels and other stone features like tender posts, gate posts and milestones.	Drystone walling training elements to the programme, but otherwise limited development of this (individual projects such as Pennine Heritage and Places of Worship project have touched on this).	
	Improving interpretation, opening up, explaining and ultimately exploiting the forces that shaped the unique cultural heritage of the South Pennines such as water power.	Extensive development of this theme through Watershed Landscape project	
SPLP4 Promoting Artistic and creative Interpretation of our landscape	Focus on artistic interpretation of the culture & landscape through;		
	Support for Artists and Writers in residence to engage audiences under the LEADER programme;	Extensive development of this through Watershed Landscape project and Local Distinctiveness project.	
	Linking and promoting competitions, events, training, exhibitions, including "open studio trails"	Extensive development of this through Watershed Landscape project and Local Distinctiveness project.	
	The creation of a single interlinked group of the South Pennines art groups	Extensive development of this through Local Distinctiveness project.	
	Bringing "new" artists (working with youth, agriculturalists etc) out of the woodwork and highlighting the work of lesser known creative people, linking these to enterprise start up assistance, higher profile exhibitions, access to markets etc. "Creative Towns" concept across the South Pennines.	Some development of this through Watershed Landscape project and Local Distinctiveness project.	
	Creation of gallery, educational resource and performance spaces	Some development of this through Watershed Landscape project and Local Distinctiveness project.	
	Interpretation of the landscape linked to key artistic and cultural iconic figures – e.g. Ted Hughes, Brontes, etc	Extensive development of this through Watershed Landscape project and Local Distinctiveness project.	

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SPLP5 Improving remote service provision	Knowledge Transfer : sharing of good practice and capacity building in finding innovation ways to provide rural services. Increasing move to third sector delivery means lots of groups facing same issues, problems and challenges – knowledge transfer is key	Initially held workshops etc on asset transfer and have worked on knowledge transfer in the energy sector, but limited development of anything related to service delivery. Focus has been more towards “communities doing it themselves” eg Midgley community shop, growing spaces etc.	
	Extension and development of improved mobile services which are clearly advertised, bringing in schools, tourism etc but also looking at targeting youth and elderly as those in particular isolation e.g. cooperative action on home delivery for small independent businesses	Not done (difficult in existing measures)	
	Use of technology to improve service delivery to remoter areas and combat isolation. In particular looking at Next Generation Community Broadband (Fibre to the Home FTTH and or/ Fibre to the Premises FTTP broadband) - feasibility study to assess the viability and potential of a community owned and run optical fibre network, and develop a business case.	Not done – separate fund for this, our role was information spreading.	
SPLP6 Promoting sustainable community facilities	Energy and water efficiency audits of community facilities (pilot just finished in BMDC) with follow up grants programme for capital works (insulation/energy efficient boilers/double glazing – grants)	Extensive work on this through BEAT project.	
	Anti-theft initiatives for community facilities experiences problems with theft of York stone slabs, lead, stone roof tiles etc	Not done	
	Neighbourhood energy developments : micro sources of energy, looking at ways in which to build the capacity of small communities to review and change their approach to the use of energy through individually upgraded activity and collectively creating energy	Funded Power From the Landscape project to take forward the development of small scale hydro. A number of these sites are now going through planning process and a couple have been installed – it is a long development process.	
SPLP7 Optimising Use of Rural spaces : improved and extended use of community buildings	Use of churches to provide community facilities in smaller rural parishes	Worked on community centres and community shops, but not so much with the churches idea.	
	Creation of innovative and sustainable community hubs that bring together a range of services in one accessible location. Better use of museums and libraries as community venues/facilities for example.	Undertook a programme of capital energy related works with community buildings.	
	Capital conversion works to community/ village halls	Many projects involved this element	
SPLP8	Environmental improvements works to public realm (eg restoration of setts, cleaning stone features etc)	Undertook small grants scheme, some of which covered this subject.	
Improving the Historic Public realm	Use of volunteers to undertake local environmental improvement works	Used volunteers extensively for conservation projects.	
SPLP9 Improving Access Points and community information	Work to improve stations. Link environmental improvements to use of stations to display and exhibit local cultural information and features.	Not developed as a specific project. Some moves at start, but station partnership groups felt unable to work outside their own environment and we learnt from that.	
	Improve village networking.	Whole programme has this at its core.	
	Development of an ambassadorial scheme to train local businesses and individuals in welcoming visitors and providing a localised visitor information service, also creating a sense of community in key villages and towns	Not developed in this format, though Local Distinctiveness project has some of this at its core.	
SPLP10 Promoting Use of Land for Community Recreational benefit	Identification of underused land within villages either publicly or privately owned that can be brought back into local use for community recreational benefit. Encourage allotments and community gardens where necessary as community enterprise	Quite a few local growing projects, eg Redacre Growing site and Heptonstall allotments plus support for Incredible Edible initiative.	