

NEWS RELEASE from

devon renaissance
working for rural prosperity



8 May 2009

Devon Renaissance changes course to become standalone commercial body

Devon Renaissance, the rural regeneration partnership organisation, is to operate as a standalone, commercial, not-for-profit body, dedicated to providing economic, social and environmental development opportunities for the county of Devon.

The Devon Renaissance board has decided that an independent organisation is the best way to provide this service, having considered a number of options for the future.

This represents a development in its relationship with North Devon+ which has nurtured Devon Renaissance since 2004 through support and staffing but which is now moving to a more focused role for northern Devon.

The new organisation comes into force in July 2009, and Devon Renaissance will expand its range of commercial services and will invest profits back into regeneration projects for the county. It already delivers the Local Action Group programmes for Greater Dartmoor LEAF (Local Enterprise Action Fund) and the South Devon Coastal LAG. In addition it has qualified BREEAM assessors and also offers environmental advice, research, project management bid writing and monitoring and evaluation of projects.

Peter Tansey, chair of the Devon Renaissance board, said the move is good news for Devon. "This shows real innovation and creativity. We will use our talents to create funds that in turn we can use to help and support the people, communities and businesses across rural Devon with a completely new business model. Devon Renaissance has become just the kind of business it was originally set up to help, working in a rural environment, employing local people and helping drive prosperity. I'm proud to have such a skilled team supported by a very able and experienced Board"

"We have a lot of work to do between now and July and the whole Devon Renaissance team is looking forward to the challenge."

The move has been supported by many of the district councils, Devon County Council and many of the agencies who contribute to its success.

David Incoll, chief executive of West Devon Borough Council, also welcomed the move. "As one of the founder members of Devon Renaissance, the Borough Council has been delighted with the investment it has delivered to the rural areas and the support it has afforded to so many businesses and projects. Maintaining Devon Renaissance, when the need to invest in Devon's rural areas has never been greater and external funding has never been lower, is vital. I know the team will succeed in the challenges facing them"

Keri Denton of Devon County Council said: "Devon County Council has supported Devon Renaissance both as a funder and as a board member. Although we will be relinquishing these roles we believe the new services being offered will be of value and we wish the new organisation every success"

Liz Abell, Devon Renaissance general manager, said the whole team is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. "We now have the opportunity to continue providing the best possible service to the people of rural Devon. We are all committed to making our new business model work for the benefit of the county and the people who live here."

Devon Renaissance will operate and help to fund regeneration projects across the county of Devon (outside North Devon and Torridge), but will offer its commercial activities across the whole of the UK.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

Release issued by pr dogs limited, public relations consultants, on behalf of Devon Renaissance. For further information please contact John Taynton of pr dogs on 01822 600100 or 0773 999 7353 or email john.taynton@prdogs.com