

Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP)
Date: October 2014
Title: Environment Strategy for East Sussex
Author: Michael Turner, Environment Agency
Purpose: To provide an update on progress in implementing the Environment Strategy actions for 2014-15 and the longer term objectives

Recommendation:

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

1. note the progress made during 2014-15;
2. agree the recommended indicators of progress;
3. identify any areas of concern with longer term progress.

1. Background

1.1 The East Sussex Strategic Partnership adopted the partnership Environment Strategy for East Sussex in July 2011. Members requested that a report on progress in implementing the Environment Strategy be brought to the ESSP once data were available and had been verified.

1.2 The environment is important both as an asset to protect and a resource to utilise and develop. How we manage the environment has implications for waste, energy, health and the economy as well as landscape and ecological sites. The environment is therefore inextricably linked to the future economic prosperity of the county and the health and wellbeing of our residents.

1.2 The Environment Strategy for East Sussex brings together the high level aims and objectives of a wide range of organisations into one shared, long-term strategic environmental plan for the county. It is helping to ensure that partners work together in the current tough financial climate to deliver sustained long term activity. This is being achieved by identifying the county's strategic environmental assets, assessing the most serious challenges that they face and the opportunities that they present over the next 12 years, and acting on the priorities required for these to be addressed. This includes, for example, working with partners in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership to develop a co-ordinated programme of support to businesses across the South East to increase their competitiveness and maximise economic growth by improving their energy efficiency and cutting their carbon footprint.

1.3 As requested by the ESSP at its meeting in April, this report provides an update on progress in delivering the Environment Strategy.

2. Implementation of the Environment Strategy

2.1 The organisations that developed the Environment Strategy have set up the Environment Strategy Group (ESG) to oversee the delivery of the Environment Strategy, with working groups covering the key issues (eg. waste and transport). This report has been prepared by the ESG.

2.2 Appendix A provides a summary table of progress so far during 2014-15 in delivering the Environment Strategy actions agreed by the ESSP in April 2014. The key point to note is that 19% of the actions have been completed, 74% are on track for completion by the end of the year and 7% are likely to be delivered later than anticipated, so are likely to be carried forward to 2015-16.

2.3 Appendix B sets out the indicators of progress that are being used, or are proposed to be used, to assess progress in achieving the longer-term objectives of the Strategy. These have been selected by the working groups, based on data that are already collected by a range of organisations and subject to quality checks.

2.4 Appendix C shows the trend in some of the indicators of progress, notably those for which there is enough historical data from which to discern a trend. These will briefly be presented at the ESSP meeting on 30 October, to highlight key trends and provide an opportunity to discuss any areas of concern. It's worth noting that behind these headline indicators there is often significant variation across the county. For example, recycling rates vary from 23% in Lewes to 46% in Wealden.

2.5 The Environment Strategy Group will continue to monitor progress regularly against the actions and longer term indicators of progress, and in April 2015 will provide the ESSP with:

- a. a progress report on delivery of the 2014-15 action plan;
- b. a proposed action plan for 2015-16.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

- a) note the progress made to date during 2014-15;
- b) agree the recommended indicators of progress;
- c) note any areas of concern for the Environment Strategy Group to consider.

Michael Turner, Environment Agency

Appendix A – Summary table of progress during 2014-15.

Appendix B – List of indicators of progress.

Appendix C – trend in key indicators.

APPENDIX A: ACTIONS FOR 2014-15

Waste Management

Strategy Action	Activity	Timescale	Lead	Progress as at 30/10/14
Improve kerbside recycling schemes in Eastbourne, Wealden, Hastings and Rother authority areas	Rother District begin under new contract	Jul-14	RDC & Kier	New kerbside recycling service rolled out in RDC in Jun-14.
	Review and agree recycling and composting targets	Sep-14	ESCC	There are no current plans to develop milestones to break down the ultimate target into annual targets. The new collection contract for four of our five district and boroughs needs more 'bedding in time' than anticipated so it would not be suitable to put in annual targets at this time. The benefits of setting milestones will be reviewed in the future
Increase food waste collection	Identify improvements to the food collection scheme	Jul-14	LDC	Participation rate measured using count of households presenting food waste caddie on day of collection. Monitoring of food waste tonnages collected. These identified that participation and yield are lower than expected.
	Implement improvements	Nov-14		Customer Service Technician employed on temporary contract to provide help and advice to residents on how to engage with the service. Zero Heroes campaign rewarding participation.
Minimise the amount of waste produced	Produce and agree final Waste Minimisation and Education Strategy	Jun-14	Veolia & ESCC	Final Waste Minimisation and Education Strategy published in Aug-14.
	Finalise a Waste Awareness and Recycling Action Plan with the Waste Resources Strategy Group	Jun-14	ESCC, WCAs & Veolia	Draft Action Plan developed in Jul-14. Expecting to finalise this is Autumn of 2014.
	Implement and monitor the Action Plan	Mar-15	ESCC	To be done later in the financial year
Further reduce waste to landfill	Explore alternatives to landfill, such as shredding of bulky waste from Household Waste Recycling Sites	Sep-14	ESCC & Veolia	Currently scoping out the business case for options to divert bulky waste from landfill with Veolia. Suggest this timescale is put back to Mar-15 for now, as this is a lengthy process.
	Assess alternatives during shut down of East Sussex waste treatment facilities during maintenance periods	Nov-14		4,000 tonnes of Contract Waste (including BHCC) diverted from landfill to an alternative energy recovery facility (ERF) in Allington during the planned annual shutdown of Newhaven ERF in Jul-14.

Transport, air quality and noise

Strategy Action	Activity	Timescale	Lead	Progress as at 30/10/14
We will implement the Local Transport Plan capital programme of works for 2014-15	Deliver new & improved walking and cycling schemes in Eastbourne, Lewes, Newhaven, Hastings & Bexhill through the LSTF programme	Mar-15	ESCC (Strategic Economic Infrastructure)	Construction of LSTF walking & cycling infrastructure has started on: footway improvements in Station Street, Lewes, 20mph zones and improvements to Lewes Station forecourt, Town centre to Seafront in Eastbourne, a Newhaven to Peacehaven A259 Accessibility Improvement scheme, including pedestrian crossing facilities and cycling facilities. These measures will be delivered by March 2015. The Bike It programme has had a staggering success in terms of numbers of engagement (eg. has reached over 8,000 pupils, 2020 parents and school staff, 33 businesses in Newhaven, Lewes and Eastbourne, and 584 people received personalised travel planning, including help to overcome transport as a barrier to securing work).
	Progress to preliminary design and consultation on Quality bus corridor between Hailsham and Eastbourne	Mar-15		An assessment of issues and what measures can be delivered to overcome these has been undertaken with key stakeholders. A Public Consultation is proposed for February 2015.
	Begin construction of BHLR complementary measures (eg. bus priority measures along the A259)	Mar-15		A public consultation exercise was undertaken in February 2014. The detailed design is underway and construction is planned for summer 2015 after the Link Road has opened.
	Develop a network of electric vehicle charging points across East Sussex	Mar-15		Locations identified include Herstmonceaux, Newhaven, Lewes, Selemston, Bexhill and Rye. A 'fastcharger' has been installed at Eastbourne train station.
	Develop & deliver marketing and promotional initiatives to support sustainable transport capital investment (eg. real time passenger information)	Mar-15		A radio campaign encouraging local people to consider walking and cycling when returning to school and work after the summer school holidays was launched in September 2014. A Cycle centre in Eastbourne Sports park has been launched, and provides training for children and adults. The Sustrans Bike It scheme is working with a range of schools and businesses to enable local people to choose walking and cycling for everyday journeys.
We will develop Walking & Cycling Strategies for Hastings & Rother	During 2014-15 the county council will work in partnership with Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council, local cycle groups and the voluntary sector to develop Walking & Cycling strategies that support housing and commercial developments coming forward in the local Development Plans, to provide a walking and cycling network that links to key services	Mar-15	ESCC (Strategic Economic Infrastructure)	ESCC developed a Walking & Cycling Strategy with Hastings, which was approved in September 2014. ESCC are currently developing Walking & Cycling Strategies with Rother and Wealden, and will work on a strategy for Lewes, Newhaven, Seaford and Peacehaven. These strategies will be drafted by March 2015, and approval sought in the new financial year.
We will bid for further funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund	If the LSTF Revenue Bid for 2015-16 (covering Newhaven, Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings) is approved in July 2014, we will procure project delivery ready to start in April 2015	Mar-15	ESCC (Strategic Economic Infrastructure)	ESCC's bid to the DfT for £684K of revenue funding to continue the delivery of the LSTF programme in Newhaven and Eastbourne and extend this into Bexhill and Hastings was successful in June 2014. The funding will be focussed in 2015-16 on working with schools and workplaces located close to transport infrastructure delivered during the LSTF 2012-2015 programme, and will extend the Bike It and Wheels to Work programmes, and establish another cycle centre in the east of the county.
We will review and assess air quality across East Sussex	Review the Air Quality Action Plans in Lewes & Hastings	Mar-15	SAQP	AQAPs programmed for review by Sussex Air by March 2015
	Develop an Air Quality Action Plan for Newhaven	Mar-15	LDC & ESCC	LDC formally declared the Air Quality Management Area in the summer of 2014 and is now calculating more accurately how much of an improvement in air quality would be needed to deliver the statutory air quality objectives. An Air Quality Management Plan will then be developed in partnership with ESCC, as the Highways Authority.

Strategy Action	Activity	Timescale	Lead	Progress as at 30/10/14
Landscape & Biodiversity				
We will assist evidence-based decision making on landscape & biodiversity	Assess whether the national ecosystem toolkit can be applied to East Sussex	Mar-15	LNP	Natural England has been requested to present at next Local Nature Partnership Executive Board meeting in December.
	Develop links between the Local Nature Partnership and the Local Economic Partnership	Mar-15	SWT	The LNP has set up a sub-group to improve links with the Coast to Capital and South East LEPS.
We will develop a consistent approach to Green Infrastructure across East Sussex	Develop a common evidence base on green infrastructure across East Sussex	Mar-15	ESCC / Districts / Boroughs	County-wide database of existing GI assets have been mapped, including analysis of opportunity to improve functionality. Report published on LNP website (http://sussexlnp.org.uk/projects.php).
	Develop design briefs for key development sites, once Local Plan allocations have been determined.	Mar-15	Districts / Boroughs	This action is dependent on publication of key development sites.
	Investigate methodology for recording GI delivery through development.	Mar-15	ESCC / Districts / Boroughs	ESCC to contact SxBRC to investigate possibilities, logistics and potential costs.
We will deliver improvements to landscape & biodiversity in East Sussex	Deliver key SWT/RSPB/ NT/WT projects in 2014-15	Mar-15	SWT / RSPB / NT	A database of local projects is being developed.
	Sign up 15 more businesses across the South Downs to the Green Tourism Business Scheme & 15 more businesses across the High Weald to the "Our Land" scheme.	Mar-15	HW AONB Unit / SDNPA	"Our Land" project still active although funding has now ceased. Businesses still being signed up.
	Establish a Community Interest Company for the long term development of Combe Valley Countryside Park	Mar-15	Groundwork South	A Community Interest Company is in the process of being established.
We will improve the ecological status of local water bodies	Maintain thriving river catchment partnerships in the 3 catchments across East Sussex (Adur & Ouse; Rother; Cuckmere & Pevensey).	Mar-15	EA	The catchment partnerships are all active, with Adur and Ouse being the most advanced. Includes smaller projects like TrUck (Trees on the River Uck).

Healthy & Active Lifestyles

Strategy Action (& no.)	Activity	Timescale	Lead	Progress as at 30/10/14
We will increase physical activity in green spaces, particularly focussing on those who experience health inequalities or who are least likely to access physical activity opportunities	Strengthen collaborative working between partners who develop and deliver walk programmes	Mar-15	ESCC	Quarterly East Sussex Walking Group partners' meetings established. One of the main areas of focus for this group has been supporting two walking festivals which are currently taking place in Wealden and Eastbourne, and Hastings and Rother
	Redesign and develop ESCC walking web pages	Mar-15	ESCC	A draft version of the new ESCC walking webpage has been completed and consultation will commence at the next East Sussex Walking Group meeting
	Develop and deliver volunteer led health walks and encourage engagement within communities least likely to engage in walking opportunities, including those with long term conditions (e.g. cancers, heart disease, mental health illness)	Sep-14	TCV & ESCC	The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) has been commissioned to deliver volunteer led health walks from 1/10/14 to 30/9/17. The service is targeted to engage with high need population groups such as older people. It brings into place a shorted version of the health walk aimed specifically at those people whose existing health conditions mean that they would not currently be able to complete a full walk
	Strengthen collaborative working between health improvement and nature partnerships, including the development and delivery of new interventions/projects, notably linking to the obesity element of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan	Mar-15	ESCC	Sussex Community Development Association and The Railway Land Wildlife Trust have been commissioned to deliver projects that aim to increase the use of Green and Open Spaces by targeted population groups
We will reduce the impact on health from cold homes and fuel poverty	Agree and implement an annual East Sussex Energy Partnership plan	Mar-15	East Sussex Energy Partnership	A Winter Home Check service is being commissioned to assist 700 households in the Winter 2014/15. The service provides vulnerable people with a full home assessment and advice on how best to keep it warm, small preventative works such as improving insulation, repairing or replacing boilers or clearing gutters or chimneys, providing emergency temporary heating and advice on financial help with heating costs. It has helped more than 2,500 households since 2011.

Climate Change

Strategy Action	Activity	Timescale	Lead	Progress as at 30/10/14
We will reduce CO ₂ emissions in East Sussex	Implement a range of measures within our organisations to reduce CO ₂ emissions	Mar-15	ESCC / Districts / Boroughs	ESCC has funded over 120 projects worth £1.7m, bringing collective savings of £514,000 p.a. (insulation, boilers, lighting etc)
	Develop a consistent approach to renewable energy within local Development Plans	Mar-15	RDC	The Local Planning Authorities have set up a working group to develop a consistent approach, as part of the Duty to Cooperate.
	Assist residents to retrofit energy efficiency measures in their homes	Mar-15	SESP	Support is available to those in fuel poverty (see above)
	Deliver a programme of support to help local businesses to cut their energy bills	Mar-15	ESCC	A 2 year programme is being funded by ESCC to provide SMEs with free energy audits and access to grants of up to £1,000 to install energy efficiency measures.
	Assess and report on the effect the above measures have on CO ₂ across East Sussex.	Mar-15	ESCC	Analysis of latest DECC CO ₂ data carried out & report circulated to key partners and available on ESIF.
We will develop and implement climate change adaptation measures	Produce an integrated Beach Management Plan to manage single coastal erosion from Eastbourne to Kent	Mar-15	EA / Local Authorities	The South East Coastal Group has completed the elements of the Programme needed to inform the Beach Management Plans (BMP). The BMP for Eastbourne to Rye is almost complete.
	Review the LCLIP	Mar-15	HBC	Planned for 2015-16

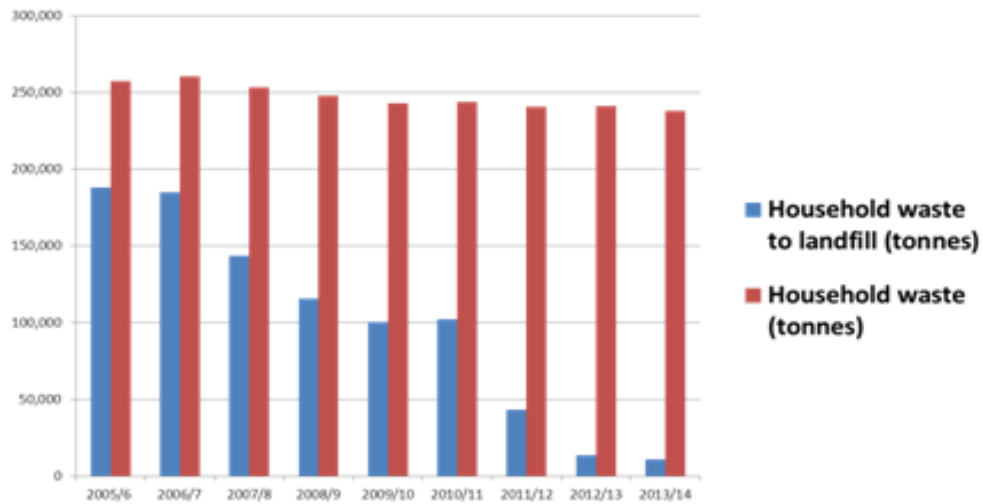
Strategy Action	Activity	Timescale	Lead	Progress as at 30/10/14
Sustainable Food				
We will increase the amount of healthy food available	Increase the range of settings where healthy choices (including Eat Out, Eat Well Scheme) are offered or promoted, including the use of local produce	Mar-15	ESCC / Districts / Boroughs	Since the Eat Out, Eat Well Scheme started in April 2014, 4 catering venues have achieved awards for improving their healthy choices. Another 20 venues are expected to complete the scheme in the next year.
We will increase the proportion of locally produced food in the public sector	Investigate further opportunities to increase local suppliers within ESCC food & drink contracts	Mar-14	ESCC	All Adult Social Care sites are now supplied with dairy products by Downsview Farm in Ringmer. The contract is for 2 years. Seaford Library includes a successful café run by a local business, to encourage customers to use the space as more than just a library. County Hall cafe: using a small supplier based in East Hoathly for baked goods, main meals and various confectionery items.
	Promote the good practice of the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Hospital	Mar-14	Food Working Group	Promoted through existing partners

APPENDIX B – INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

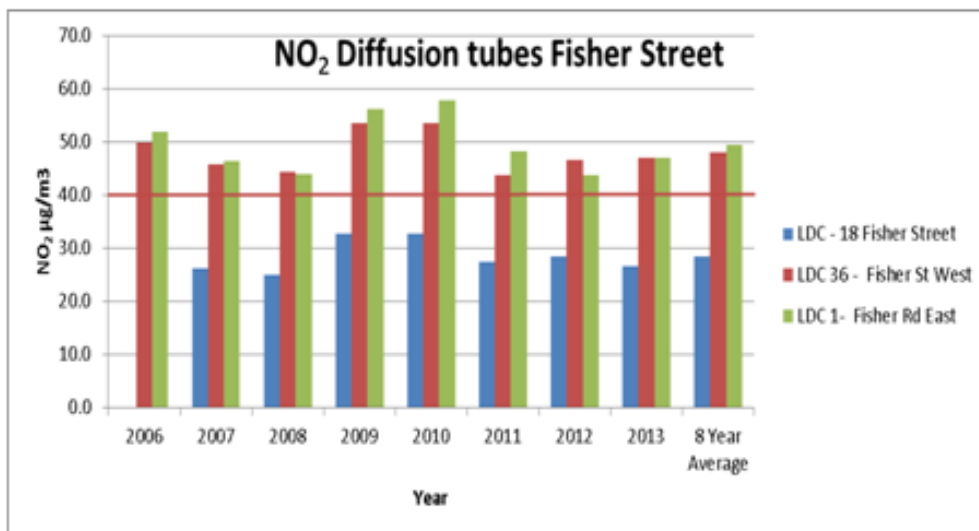
Subject	Strategy goal	Indicator of progress	Source of data	Frequency of data
Waste	Reduce, re-use and recycle more	Waste reduction, recycling and composting	ESCC	Annual (July)
	Use sustainable waste management technologies	Waste diverted from landfill	ESCC	Annual (July)
Transport & air quality	Minimise the need to travel & increase sustainable travel choices	Vehicle kilometres travelled	ESCC	Annual (September)
	Reduce local air pollution	Concentration of air pollutants in air pollution hotspots	Sussex Air	Annual (March)
Landscape & biodiversity	Improve the quality of rivers, streams, lakes, groundwater and estuaries	The quality of surface waters, ground waters, coastal waters and wetlands	Environment Agency	Annual (September)
	Protect & enhance key biodiversity sites	The condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and sites designated for their nature conservation interest.	Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre	Annual (September)
Healthy & active lifestyles	Ensure 90% of the county's population has access to a natural green space within 5 minutes of their home	% of households meeting the national Access to Natural Green Space standards	Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre	5 yearly
	Ensure bathing waters in England meet the standards required under European law	Quality of bathing waters	Environment Agency	Annual (September)
Climate Change	Reduce CO2 emissions in line with national targets	CO2 emissions	Department for Energy & Climate Change	Annual (September)
	Increase energy efficiency	% of fuel poor households	Department for Energy & Climate Change	Annual (modelled data. July)
Food	Increase the proportion of locally produced food in the public and hospitality sectors	The proportion of locally produced food in the public sector supply chain	Public sector organisations (examples of)	Annual (tbc)

APPENDIX C- TRENDS IN KEY INDICATORS

Waste



Transport & air quality



Biodiversity



CO₂ emissions

