

IN ATTENDANCE

ESSP Members present:

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| Jeremy Leggett (chair) | Action in Rural Sussex |
| Cllr Bob Tidy (vice chair) | East Sussex County Council |
| Robert Cottrill | Eastbourne Borough Council |
| Cllr Pam Doodes | Wealden District Council |
| Jane Hartnell (for Cllr Peter Pragnell) | Hastings Borough Council |
| Robin Smith | Sussex Police |
| Gary Walsh | East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service |
| Chris Piper | Learning & Skills Council |
| Joanna Hodgson (for Chris Wick) | Environment Agency |
| Arthur Norton (for John Griffiths) | Highways Agency |
| Janet Thacker (for Debby Gill) | Job Centre Plus |
| Steve Manwaring | SpeakUp |
| Ian Chisnall | Churches Together in Sussex |
| John Hodges | Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance |
| Cynthia Lyons (For John Barnes and Charles Everett) | NHS Hastings & Rother and |
| Richard Emmens | NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald |
| | Government Office for the South East |

In attendance:

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| Sandra Prail | Audit Commission |
| Shan Allan | Audit Commission |
| Becky Shaw | East Sussex County Council |
| Katherine Perrin | East Sussex County Council |
| Alison Horan | East Sussex County Council |
| Gill Cameron-Waller | Wealden District Council |
| Lucy Dixon-Thompson | East Sussex County Council |
| Marcus Gomm | Safer Communities Partnership |
| Pauline Snashall | East Sussex County Council (Minutes) |
| Scott Lavocah | Rother Local Strategic Partnership |
| Dominique Lewis | Eastbourne Strategic Partnership |
| Penelope Bentley | East Sussex County Council |
| Andy Robertson | East Sussex County Council |
| Jo Orchard-Webb | University of Brighton |

NOTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

- a) The chair welcomed all members to the meeting especially Robert Cottrill the new Chief Executive of Eastbourne Borough Council.
- b) Apologies were received from:
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| Charles Everett | NHS Hastings & Rother |
| Chris Wick | Environment Agency |
| Cllr Carl Maynard | Rother District Council |
| Cllr David Young | Sussex Association of Local Councils |
| Cllr Peter Pragnell | Hastings Borough Council |
| Debby Gill | JobCentre Plus |
| Gilly Bartrip | SEEDA |
| John Barnes | NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald |
| Jon Griffiths | Highways Agency |
| Ken Stevens | Federation of Small Businesses |
| Leighe Rogers | National Probation Service (Sussex) |
| Steve Hare | SpeakUp Representative |
- c) No apologies were received from:
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| Cllr James MacCleary | Lewes District Council |
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2) Urgent items of business

Jeremy Leggett introduced Jo Orchard-Webb, PhD researcher, University of Brighton who is conducting research into regeneration governance structures, focusing predominantly on Hastings. He introduced her request to take notes and record the meeting, guaranteeing strict ethical integrity and her offer to present findings to the ESSP in 2010. The ESSP granted permission for her to record the meeting and for Jeremy to sign a consent form on behalf of the partnership.

3) Notes of the meeting held on 17 July 2009 and Matters Arising

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record subject to the omission of Cllr Pam Doodes apologies having been submitted to that meeting. There were no matters arising.

4) Declarations of Interest

Steve Manwaring represents an organisation that has received money from the recession fund (Item 5).

5) Topic Focus on the Economy – East Sussex Economy: Opportunities and Threats

- a) Kieran McNamara introduced himself as Head of Strategic Economic Development and Skills at East Sussex County Council and gave a presentation on the East Sussex economy (copy available on the ESSP website). The main points were:
- i) East Sussex has a strong entrepreneurial culture, with an economy dominated by micro-businesses.

- ii) However, 1 in 4 people are working outside East Sussex. There has been an increase in people working from home although the Digital Britain report highlights issues with good high speed broadband.
 - iii) Extensive engagement mechanisms are in place to consult with the private sector and the key challenge is to use the information to inform planning and decision making. The East Sussex Business Board (ESBB) was currently considering how best to deliver a model which ensured that was in place.
 - iv) A virtual recession task force has been developed which co-ordinates activity and regularly reports on agreed performance indicators. The County Council's Recession Survey showed a common picture across the county with the majority of businesses either stable or growing, with some significant sectoral variation.
 - v) The £1million Recession Fund is a one-off County Council fund intended to support residents, businesses and communities through the recession. A number of projects have already been funded including investing in new employment opportunities in Newhaven and a volunteering passport to make skills transferable into employment.
 - vi) There has been an increase in the demands on the Voluntary and Community sector (VCS) which highlights the need to take advantage of the opportunity to work with the VCS in the recession work.
 - vii) The Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Bill is currently being discussed in Parliament and Royal Assent is expected in autumn 2009. The Bill seeks to create greater opportunities for community and individual involvement in local decision-making. It also provides for greater involvement of local authorities in local and regional economic development.
 - viii) A new countywide strategy will need to be developed, feeding into the LAA refresh and Pride of Place review processes and with the ESSP, current East Sussex Economic Strategy and local evidence as key drivers. The timetable for the area economic assessment is December/January, with the strategy due to be in place in April 2010.
- b) SEEDA have indicated that the preferred provider for the Business Link South East contract is SERCO. The contract will be signed in November and that they are keen to engage very early at a countywide level. Kieran will sit on the board and be able to feed into discussions.
 - c) Councillor Tidy updated the partnership on the recession fund. There have been 17 applications in total, with seven so far having been approved. A strong partnership has been created with Sussex Enterprise/ Business Link offer advice to businesses. Currently 300 companies have been helped. The awards will be monitored after 6 months to assess progress.
 - d) Becky Shaw commented that it is important to recognise the dependency on jobs in the public sector in East Sussex and the potential direct impact of reduced public expenditure. The role public sector organisations have to play to contribute to economic development work, for example by considering the provision of apprenticeships was highlighted.

FOR DECISION

6) LAA 2 Performance Monitoring

- a) The meeting considered the LAA 2 performance report.

- b) Cllr Tidy made the partnership aware that the relevant organisations are concentrating on looking at the causes of the red-rated Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) target and try to mitigate them; however it will be very difficult to meet the target this year. Robin Smith informed the partnership that work is ongoing for KSI however that there are likely to be inconsistencies over how the target is measured across the country, until all Police Forces use the same definition from next year.
- c) The newly established Casualty Reduction Board is meeting in October. It has been set up to target those at risk, and trying to look, where possible, at the causes.
- d) Richard Emmens commented that the exceptional green target on temporary accommodation is particularly encouraging because the measure is a proxy for a number of other issues which are challenging on a regional and national level.
- e) Alison Horan updated the partnership that of the two submitted LAA Exemplar Projects, the NEETs prevention work in Rother was successful in gaining funds.

ESSP Members Agreed to:

1. Approve the overall performance and
2. To carry out any action needed to ensure the future delivery of LAA2

7) Pride of Place

a) Strategy Review – Forward Plan

- i) Lucy Dixon-Thompson gave a brief oral introduction to the ways in which strategy updates could be documented and published. Lucy also invited the ESSP to consider how the unscheduled themes may be approached and in what priority order.
- ii) Members commented that where countywide thematic partnerships do not exist e.g. community strength and leadership, these themes could be led by ESSP, particularly by looking at what already comes out of other strategies.
- iii) It was commented that Hasting and Rother in focussing on the 2012 Olympics have set up the 1066 Community Sports Network and will want to work with any group that deal with culture, sport and leisure.
- iv) Becky Shaw commented that Pride of Place is a long-term strategy and as five priority areas have been chosen for focus in the Countywide Action Plan, there is not necessarily a need to ensure that each theme is reviewed immediately.

ESSP Members agreed:

1. Update Pride of Place as a whole document
2. To revisit the review timetable when more information is available

b) Champion Update

- i) *Improving Transport* – discussed under Item 10
- ii) *Alcohol Misuse* – Robin Smith gave a brief oral update, informing the partnership that he had met with Charles Everett to discuss the way forward. He commented that alcohol abuse has a cross-cutting impact across many strategy themes. He also informed the partnership that the meeting had also highlighted the lack of shared A&E data which is a key concern for East Sussex and that Charles Everett was going to try and resolve the issues locally.

- iii) *Climate Change* – Joanna Hodgson gave a brief oral update, informing the partnership that proposals for a countywide climate change partnership have been drawn up, including an Executive Board, Officers Group and Stakeholder Group. She informed the ESSP that the first meeting will look at the make up of the groups. She invited comments on the proposed structure and applications to join the partnership to be directed through Chris Wick or herself.
- iv) *Housing* – In Charlie Lant's absence Becky Shaw introduced a tabled paper which detailed the variety of work taking place to deliver the full range of housing challenges identified in Pride of Place. Members sought and received clarification that the Youth Homeless Strategy was publically available.

8) ESSP Governance Review – Next Steps

- a) Alison Horan gave an oral update on the Constitution which has been updated to reflect more accurately ESSP's roles and responsibilities. This version had been circulated electronically for approval and the majority of ESSP members have responded positively with a few non-responses. A further update to the Constitution will be made and presented to the ESSP in January 2010 for approval following the conclusion of a number of membership discussions.
- b) She also informed the partnership that as part of the update to the Constitution the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the East Sussex Assembly has been amended to restrict its membership to countywide organisations, networks and partnerships (plus others where no countywide structure exists so as to fill representational gaps). A list of potential invitees is being drawn up and will be brought to ESSP in January for approval along with the final governance proposals.
- c) Membership
 - i) At a recent meeting of the LSP Chairs and Coordinators Group the District and Borough LSP chairs confirmed their wish for designated seats on the ESSP. Further discussions are required both with the LSPs and the District and Borough Councils. It was noted that ESSP comprises key delivery partners therefore the added contribution and benefit to ESSP of District and Borough LSPs in its membership will need to be demonstrated.
 - ii) A meeting of the Chairs and Coordinators of key Countywide Thematic Partnerships has been held to discuss communications and engagement. They do not seek membership of the ESSP but wish to develop better linkages with each other and with the ESSP agendas. Key Countywide Thematic Partnerships are also being invited to join the East Sussex Assembly, now that the updated Constitution has been approved.
 - iii) A meeting with SpeakUp is scheduled to discuss Voluntary and Community Sector representation on the ESSP.
- d) The partnership was also informed that the structure diagram will be updated once the Governance Review has concluded in January 2010, to accurately portray the nature of ESSP and its relationships with other partnerships in the county.

ESSP Members agreed:

1. To receive final governance changes in the January 2010 meeting, including an updated structure diagram and list of potential organisations/partnerships to invite

9) CAA Draft Report, Audit Commission

- a) Sandra Prail gave a brief introduction to the draft report, confirming that it was not yet available to the public. She informed the partnership that Jeremy will receive a pre-publication report on 16 October 2009 which will trigger the right of appeal against red flags. On 12 December the One Place website will go live with the report for public viewing. The report is written for the public and provides an overview.
- b) There are currently no red or green flags. Sandra felt that ESSP was a mature partnership that is effectively led and positively developing shared plans. However it was felt there are a number of areas for improvement, including expressing more clearly what the focus on 'narrowing the gap' meant in practice and what, in some areas, excellence would look like.
- c) Members commented that the area of community leadership, while being a fundamental ambition of the partnership, is by its nature difficult to coordinate and acknowledged that it takes many different forms. Members also expressed a wish to understand how this was being tackled in others areas, and to provide the Audit Commission with further information on a number of projects which are looking to build community strength.
- d) Members questioned whether there would be a right of appeal about the absence of green flags and were informed that the right of appeal only applies for disputing the existence of red flags. Sandra commented that the test for green flags is about innovation and that as yet, East Sussex has not been able to demonstrate this level of innovation despite some strong performance.
- e) Members expressed concern that innovation is a subjective term, and one that is often linked to those partnerships who are recipients of funding, rather than those delivering consistently good services on reducing funds.

10) Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2 Progress Plan for LTP3

- a) Andy Robertson from East Sussex County Council updated the partnership on the background and timetable for developing Local Transport Plan 3. He informed the partnership that the current plan comes to an end in April 2011 and that the new plan will align with Pride of Place, running until 2026 with a series of 5 year implementation plans.
- b) Andy expressed the wish to fully engage the ESSP in the development process and to make use of the opportunity for an integrated approach to public transport, accessibility, road safety and road maintenance. Andy invited the partnership to participate in an informal themed workshop, with the results to be brought to the January 2010 meeting.
- c) Arthur Norton informed the partnership that the Highways Agency were very keen to be involved in the LTP3 process.
- d) Members welcomed the partnership approach taken to developing LTP3.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To participate in an informal LTP3 workshop in autumn 2009, and
2. To receive a further update to the LTP work at the January 2010 meeting.

11) Coordinators Report

- a) The report was taken as read due to time constraints.

12) Any Other Business

- a) PTP Assessment and bids
 - i) Jeremy Leggett briefly updated the partnership that Progress through Partnership (PtP) development funding was available again this year, subject to the completion of a partnership self-assessment.
 - ii) He sought and gained approval from the ESSP to use a working group to complete the self assessment and thanked those who were staying behind after the meeting to do this.

ESSP members agreed:

1. To complete the self-assessment through a working group
2. To provide Jeremy Leggett with delegated authority to pool some PtP money with District/Borough LSPs and to approve development projects.

- b) Topics for next meetings

Jeremy Leggett briefly explained that topics for the next meeting need to be sought, however that the agenda was already quite full. Members provided additional suggestions of Total Place, broadband and Community Strength.
- c) Link road – Andy Robertson updated the partnership on the progress of the Hastings Bexhill Link Road, including the objection to compulsory purchase orders which have led to a public enquiry. He informed the partnership that the inspector for the public enquiry had set a broadened remit looking at the need for the road rather than simply the compulsory purchase orders. This meant there was a risk that objectors' voices would dominate and those in support would not necessarily know there was a need to write in support of the project.
- d) Jeremy Leggett thanked Lucy Dixon Thompson for all her work at ESCC.

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS

| Item | Action |
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| FOR DECISION SECTION | |
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| 6 | LAA Performance Monitoring Report 1. To approve the overall performance, and 2. To carry out any action needed to ensure the future delivery of LAA2 |
| 7a | Strategy Review – Forward Plan 1. To update Pride of Place as a whole document, and 2. To revisit the review timetable when more information is available |
| 8 | ESSP Governance Review – Next Steps 1. To receive final governance changes in the January 2010 meeting, including an updated structure diagram and list of potential organisations/partnerships to invite |
| FOR INFORMATION SECTION | |
| 9 | CAA Draft Report None. |
| 10 | Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2 Progress Plan for LTP3 1. To participate in an informal LTP3 workshop in autumn 2009, and 2. To receive a further update to the LTP work at the January 2010 meeting. |
| 11 | Coordinators Report None. |
| 12 | Any Other Business (AOB) Progress through Partnership 1. To complete the self-assessment through a working group, and 2. To provide Jeremy Leggett with delegated authority to pool some PtP money with District/Borough LSPs and to approve development projects. |