

East Sussex Strategic Partnership: Executive Board Meeting

10am, Thursday 22 February 2007

Wealden District Council Offices, Committee Room 1, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham

Agenda

Please note refreshments will be available from 9.30am

	Suggested Timings
1. Welcome and Apologies	10.00 am
2. Notes of the meeting held on 13 November 2006 (page 3)	10.05 am
<u>Community Strategy</u>	
3. Community Strategy Review (page 9)	10.10am
<u>LAA</u>	
4. Partnership Co-ordinator's Report (page 11)	10.15am
a) Refresh update (page 11)	
b) Quarter 2 monitoring report timescale (page 11)	
5. Quarter 3 monitoring report (page 12)	10.20am
6. 2007/8 Reporting timetable (page 51)	10.50am
7. Performance management (page 52)	10.55am
<u>Partnership</u>	
8. Partnership Co-ordinator's Report (page 53)	11.10am
c) Constitution (page 53)	
d) Website update (page 54)	
e) Follow on from 'Meet and Greet' Sessions (page 55)	
f) South East Partnership Improvement Project (page 55)	
g) Contact List (page 56)	
h) Local Government White Paper (page 56)	
9. Forward Plan (page 58)	11.30am
10. Dates of future meetings:	11.45am
14 June 2007 (GOSE to attend)	
<i>The following dates are still provisional and are subject to confirmation by GOSE:</i>	
26 July 2007	
27 September 2007	
29 November 2007 (GOSE to attend)	
6 March 2008	
26 June 2008 (GOSE to attend)	
11. Change of Chairperson	11.50am
11. Any other business	12pm
a. East Sussex Economic Partnership Strategy	
b. Feedback from SEEDA Partnership Meeting held on 14 February 2007	

Members of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

East Sussex County Council	Cllr Bob Tidy (Vice Chair)
Eastbourne Borough Council	Cllr Ian Lucas
Hastings Borough Council	Cllr Peter Pragnell
Lewes District Council	Cllr Liz Lee
Rother District Council	Cllr Graham Gubby
Wealden District Council	Cllr Nigel Coltman
East Sussex Association of Local Councils	David Walters
Sussex Police	Nick Wilkinson
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service	Chris Large
Environment Agency	Rupert Clubb
Learning and Skills Council (Sussex)	Wayne Wright
National Probation Service (Sussex)	Andrea Saunders
Primary Care Trusts (2 seats)	Nick Yeo
	Dr Diana Grice
East Sussex Economic Partnership	Hamish Monro
Hastings and Bexhill Economic Alliance	Christine Goldschmidt
Federation of Small Businesses	Ken Stevens
Action in Rural Sussex	Jeremy Leggett
VOICES (3 seats)	Ian Chisnall (Chairman)
	Steve Manwaring
	Debby Matthews

‘Critical friend/observer’ places (non-voting):

Government Office South East (1)	Di Woolloff
South East England Development Agency	Liz McSheehy

Notes of the meeting of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board, held on Monday 13 November 2006.

Partnership Members Present:

Ian Chisnall (Chair)	VOICES (Churches Together in Sussex)
Cllr Bob Tidy (Vice-Chair)	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Peter Pragnell	Hastings Borough Council
Cllr Pam Doodles (substitute)	Wealden District Council
Cllr Graham Gubby	Rother District Council
Cllr Ian Lucas	Eastbourne Borough Council
Cllr David Walters	Sussex Association of Local Councils
ACC Nigel Yeo	Sussex Police
Di Williams (substitute)	East Sussex Fire & Rescue
Mark Pearson (substitute)	East Sussex Economic Partnership
Wayne Wright	Learning and Skills Council Sussex
Rupert Clubb	Environment Agency
Andrea Saunders	Probation Service (Sussex)
Jeremy Leggett	Action in Rural Sussex
Christine Goldschmidt	Hastings and Bexhill Economic Alliance
Sonia Sahota	Government Office for the South East

Non-Members present:

John Haward	Government Office for the South East
Becky Shaw	East Sussex County Council
Alison Horan	East Sussex County Council
Diana Francombe	East Sussex County Council
Kieran McNamara	East Sussex County Council
Judi Dettmar	East Sussex County Council
Alison Jeffery	East Sussex County Council
Cynthia Lyons	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
Barbara Pratt	Eastbourne Borough Council
Roy Mawford	Hastings Borough Council
Enda Dowd	Hastings Borough Council
Mary Clare Deane	Wealden District Council
Gill Cameron-Waller	Wealden District Council

Apologies:

Cllr Nigel Coltman	Wealden District Council
Dave Dowling	East Sussex Fire and Rescue
Hamish Monro	East Sussex Economic Partnership
Diane Parr	VOICES (Age Concern Sussex)

Notes

12. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed the Partners to the meeting, including Christine Goldschmidt (Hastings and Bexhill Economic Alliance) who was a new member of the Partnership.

He also introduced Lisa Schrevel, the new Partnership and Performance Officer at East Sussex County Council. Lisa's role would include preparing future LAA performance reports for the ESSP Executive Board.

Apologies had been received from:

- Councillor Nigel Coltman, Wealden District Council (Councillor Pam Doodes was in attendance as his substitute);
- Dave Dowling, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (Di Williams was in attendance as his substitute);
- Hamish Monro, East Sussex Economic Partnership, (Mark Pearson was in attendance as his substitute); and
- Diane Parr, VOICES.

The partners were reminded that the Constitution was now in force. This meant that:

- A quorum of 11 members had to be present before decisions could be made.
- If a consensus could not be reached on any matter, it would be put to a vote which would be decided by a majority.
- Attendance was being formally recorded because those members who did not attend for three meetings would have their membership considered by the Board.

13. Notes of the meeting held on 2 August 2006

The notes of the meeting held on 2 August 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

14. Co-ordinators Report

The Strategic Partnership Manager presented the Co-ordinator's report. In particular, she drew attention to the following items:

- a) The Executive Board was reminded that it had agreed that Ian Chisnall should remain as Chairman of the ESSP until the new constitution was in place and membership changes had taken effect. Ian had now served as Chairman of the ESSP for three years and, in accordance with the Constitution, invited nominations for a successor. Members were asked to make nominations in writing to Alison Horan, Head of Community Partnerships at East Sussex County Council. The nominations would be brought to the ESSP Executive Board at its next meeting on 22 February for decision.
- d) Councillor Lucas had advised that Eastbourne Borough Council was unable to support paragraph 6.6 of the ESSP constitution. This was due to the use of the words "charged or summonsed" for a criminal offence, rather than "convicted", and the proposal that referral to the ESSP Executive Board would be made without a framework to make decisions.

Members were reminded that the wording for this paragraph had been suggested by Sussex Police and was intended to give the ESSP the opportunity to consider whether any action needed to be taken if a member of the partnership was in a situation where their behaviour was in question.

It was acknowledged that the paragraph did not comply with the principle of "innocent until proven guilty" but it was also pointed out that the paragraph did not automatically disqualify anyone from membership, it simply required members to notify the partnership if they were subject to adverse proceedings. After a short discussion the members concluded that the decision about whether to remove a member from the

partnership should lie with the partner organisation, not the ESSP.

The Board agreed:

- That the Strategic Partnership manager be requested to redraft, and circulate to partners, paragraph 6.6 of the ESSP Constitution to ensure that, if any partnership member was subject to adverse proceedings, the Chair would refer the question of membership to the relevant partnership organisation for consideration.

- f) Members were advised that Dr Arnold Goldman, Chairman of the Eastbourne Forum for Older People, had expressed an interest in becoming a member of the East Sussex Assembly.

In deciding on membership, the Executive Board had had regard to establishing a balance between different sectors and communities of interest. When considering how to involve representatives of older people in the County, the Older People's Forums, apart from the BME Elders' Forum, did not meet the criterion regarding geographical coverage. There were plans to establish a countywide group, which would draw together the Chairs of all the Forums, but, until that was in place, the Executive Board had agreed to invite two representatives from the Older People's Strategy Group and two from the BME Elders' Forum.

The Executive Board was pleased to note the interest of Dr Goldman and the reported interest of his fellow Older People's Forum Chairs.

The Board agreed:

- that, in the interim period until a countywide group was established, it would invite all the Older People's Forums to nominate, between them, two named representatives to attend future meetings of the East Sussex Assembly.

15. LAA Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring Report

The Block leads for the LAA were called to the table. The representatives from Government Office for the South East led the discussions.

John Haward reminded the Board that LAAs had been set up for three reasons:

- To provide a mechanism for sharing priorities and turning them into action;
- To streamline area funding streams and make them more flexible; and
- As a fundamental attempt to decrease central government control over the local government performance framework.

He apologised for the fundamental misunderstanding about the governance arrangements and reporting timetable, which had been agreed through previous meetings of the Executive Board at which GO-SE was present. The agreed timetable would have to be renegotiated because it did not fit with GO-SE's own reporting timetable. In the short-term, GO-SE was requesting that quarter two performance data be made available by Christmas 2006 and discussed at a meeting of the Block Leads.

He also apologised that GO-SE had not yet fed back on the performance monitoring of the LAA as it had been overwhelmed with performance data from the 19 LAAs in the South East Region. It was not intending to feed back until Q2 data was made available.

During the discussions some general comments were made about the report:

- Where data was not expected for a quarter it was requested that a full explanation was given regarding why it was not available.
- GO-SE advised that, although it had been agreed that reporting would be by exception, this would not now meet its needs in terms of data and that it needed full information for every indicator. The important thing was that, where there was any variation from the expected trajectory, a full explanation was given.
- In exceptional circumstances, reward targets might be renegotiable through the refresh process.
- The meaningfulness of quarterly or even six monthly monitoring was questioned and the need for a longer term view emphasised, especially in light of the Local Government White Paper which referred to annual monitoring of LAAs.
- There were gaps in the priorities dealt with through the LAA because of the constraints of the current Blocks. Issues such as environment and transport needed to be picked up in the Community Strategy, although partners were reminded that for any target to be developed, an organisation needed to be prepared to take the lead.

The Block Leads each gave an overview of performance in their Blocks.

Children and Young People:

GO-SE commented that, based on the provisional Annual Performance Assessment results, East Sussex County Council was likely to emerge as the leading Children's Services Authority in the South East.

Some of the areas where progress was good included:

- Target 2.2 – Reduce teenage pregnancy.
- Target 3.2 – Increase engagement in culture, sport and leisure opportunities
- Target 3.3 – Increase proportion of 19 year olds achieving Level 2 in education and training.
- Target 4.1 – Reduce school exclusions, particularly in Hastings
- Target 4.2 – Increase young people's involvement in decision making

Challenges included:

- Target 3.1 – Reduce gaps in early skills development. This would be tackled through Children's Centres, especially in the more deprived areas of the County.

- Target 5.1 – Reduce 16-19s Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Nationally data was showing that NEETs were rising and while work was being planned to try and tackle the issue locally, there were concerns regionally about meeting NEET targets set through LAAs. GO-SE was asked to investigate the possibility of re-negotiating the target, even though it was a stretch target.

Economic Development and Enterprise:

Some of the areas where progress was good included:

- Target 12.1 – Increase access to skills provision post-19.
- Target 12.2 – Increase employee skills development and employer satisfaction.

Challenges included:

- Indicator 12.3.1 – Reduce gaps in average unemployment levels. There was concern that JSA claimants was not the best indicator and the delivery partners were investigating a way forward.
- Target 20.1 – Improve Housing Standards. Work was continuing to develop indicators based on the new fitness standard.

GO-SE was asked about the possibility of increased flexibility around the use of Local Enterprise Growth Initiative Finance.

There was also a potential opportunity to align the Area Investment Framework funding with the LAA, if it continued beyond the end of the current programme.

Safer and Stronger Communities:

Some of the areas where progress was good included:

- The development of partnership working
- Target 18.4 – Increase volunteering
- Target 22.1 – Reduce fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles
- Target 22.2 – Reduce total levels of waste

Challenges included:

- Target 17.0 – Reducing the BCS comparator Crime Basket targets. Despite the overall trend being in the right direction and a particularly good performance by Rother in Q2, issues remained in Eastbourne and Hastings.
- Indicator 18.1.1 – Increase Quality Councils. There were some concerns that early progress might not be maintained over the three years. It was also suggested that the White Paper's encouragement of neighbourhood forums could reduce the number of people standing for parish councils and thus undermine parish councils' ability to meet the criteria.
- Target 18.3 – Reduce the number of road deaths and serious injuries. The target was nationally set and GO-SE was asked to investigate whether five year local trend data could be used as an indicator instead.

- Target 17.2 – Reduce re-offending rates of prolific and priority offenders. It was pointed out that the new mandatory targets already being worked to by the National Probation Service and adding them to the LAA was simply duplication.

Healthier Communities and Older People:

Some of the areas where progress was good included:

- The development of partnership working.
- Target 7.2 – Reduce falls.

Challenges included:

- Indicator 8.1.2 – Enquiries at community help points. A suitable measure needed to be identified.
- Target 9.2 – Community Care. The PCT reconfiguration meant that it was unclear whether this target would need to change.

John Haward concluded that the East Sussex LAA seemed to be where GO-SE would have expected by the end of the first quarter and he particularly noted the investment in the process that had been made. GO-SE would not, however, provide full feedback until the Quarter 2 performance data had been received.

16. LAA Refresh

The Executive Board received the first LAA “Refresh” submission, made to GO-SE on 27 October 2006. It was noted that no comments had yet been received back from GO-SE. The next submission was due on 20 November.

17. Any other business

The Chairman advised the partnership that:

- Nigel Yeo was retiring from Sussex Police and that this was, therefore, his last meeting. Nigel was warmly thanked for his contribution to the partnership during his time as a member.
- Diana Francombe, the Strategic Partnership Manager, was moving to another post at the County Council after two years co-ordinating the ESSP. She was thanked for her hard work, particularly in connection with establishing the governance arrangements for the LAA. Diana’s successor would be Amanda Hodge, currently at Wealden District Council. She would be starting in January 2007.

Section: COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Title: Review of the Pride of Place Community Strategy

Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board

Date: 12 February 2007

Author: Amanda Hodge, Strategic Partnership Manager

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board:

1. Consider the proposed project plan and suggested timescales.
2. Consider the collaborative approach to developing sustainable community strategies across the county with the district and borough councils.

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update the ESSP on progress with reviewing the community strategy and invite members' views on a more collaborative approach across all six Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in East Sussex.

2. Background

2.1 The ESSP's community strategy was published in 2003 and has been updated annually since that time. Discussions have been held at officer level within all the councils in the county about the potential to work collectively to review our community strategies. The purpose of working jointly would be to avoid duplication between the County level strategy and the district and borough level strategies, to ensure we add value and exploit economies of scale. Collaborative working would enable the County strategy to provide the framework for the district and borough strategies to feed into.

3. Overview of Proposals

- 3.1. It was hoped the long expected Government guidance on developing sustainable community strategies would be produced in the Autumn of 2006, but it now looks likely it will not be published until late 2007. As it is unclear when the guidance will finally be published, it is suggested the county wide community strategy be reviewed this year as planned.
- 3.2. All the LSPs and their key partners need to consider the potential for closer working before a decision is made. ESSP members' views are invited on whether closer working would be an appropriate development. It is suggested that the Partnership manager and Chairman are authorised to act on the ESSP's behalf in the discussions with the other LSPs.

4. Project Plan

4.1. The project can be divided into three key stages:

Stages	Tasks	Milestones
Stage 1 – Research	Gathering background information from national, regional & local Strategies that will influence the Sustainable Community Strategy	31 January 2007 – LSP co-ordinators meet to discuss collaborative approach to Sustainable Community Strategies (achieved)
Stage 2 – Consultation	Collecting aspirations from ESSP members & other partners Consulting ESSP & wider Partners on the draft document	26 July 2007 – Community Strategy review event for ESSP members September 2007 – Conference for ESSP members & Assembly Winter 2007 – Consultation document placed on website for 12 week consultation period Winter 2007 – Consultation within ESSP partner organisations and with district & borough LSPs
Stage 3 – Completion	Document is published on website & printed	Early 2008

5. Conclusion

5.1. It is important that the revised sustainable community strategy captures any additional priorities that the ESSP, its wider partners and the residents of East Sussex believe are missing from the current strategy and LAA, (which is deemed to be the delivery plan of the sustainable community strategy). In order to re-develop the community strategy we will use the existing consultation evidence that has been gained across the county during LAA, LDF and other key strategy consultations. This evidence, in addition to the partnership development events proposed for the ESSP and the Assembly should ensure we capture any additional priorities.

Section: LAA
Title: Partnership Co-ordinator's Report
Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board
Date: 12 February 2007
Author: Amanda Hodge, Strategic Partnership Manager

a) Refresh update

Item for information

The final version of the annual refresh was emailed to Government Office South East (GOSE) on Thursday 18 January 2007. Further amendments were made to the document on Friday 19 January 2007. GOSE has sent the Final (19 January 2007) version of the refresh to Communities and Local Government (CLG) for approval. ESSP members were emailed a copy of the final version on 25 January 2007.

A fresh monitoring template for 2007/8 will now be developed and circulated in time for April 2007. Until that time data still needs to be reported against the existing targets for 2006/7.

b) Quarter 2 Monitoring Report timescale

Item for information

As ESSP members are aware, the second quarter LAA monitoring report had to be distributed by email due to the tight timescale required by GOSE. The East Sussex Chief Executives Group considered the quarter 2 report at their recent meeting in January 2007. Whilst the ESSP have not fully considered this report at a formal meeting, the ESSP chairman would like to thank the Chief Executives Group for considering this report. It is suggested that ESSP members focus their attention on the quarter 3 monitoring report as it has the most up to date information.

Draft LAA Monitoring Timetable 2007/08 – Pending GOSE agreement

Key dates 2007/08	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Reporting Period	Apr, May & Jun	Jul, Aug & Sep	Oct, Nov & Dec	Jan, Feb & Mar
Deadline for return of monitoring data	6 Aug 2007	24 Oct 2007	31 Jan 2008	7 May 2008
Performance Plus inputting	13 Aug 2007	31 Oct 2007	7 Feb 2007	14 May 2007
Time for preparation of Performance Report (including chasing for missing data/ comments)	2 weeks (summer holidays)	1 week	1 week	2 weeks (local elections)
Chief Execs meeting	w/c 3 Sept	w/c 5 Nov	w/c 11 Feb 2008	w/c 26 May 2008
Papers for ESSP/GO-SE	20 Sept 2007 (1 week prior)	15 Nov 2007 (2 weeks prior)	28 Feb 2008 (1 weeks prior)	12 June 2008 (2 weeks prior)
ESSP Executive Board meeting (all at 10.00 am)	27 Sept 2007	29 Nov 2007 GOSE 6 month monitoring	6 March 2008	26 June 2008 GOSE annual monitoring

Section: LAA

Title: Performance Management

Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board

Date: 12 February 2007

Author: Lisa Schrevel, Partnership and Performance Officer

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board:

1. Consider the questions detailed in paragraph 3 of this report.

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update the ESSP on progress with reviewing the LAA performance monitoring process.

2. Background

2.1 A review of the practical, operational aspects of the LAA performance monitoring process has been undertaken. The aim of the review was to ensure the process is:

- **Robust** and able to withstand scrutiny
- **Proportionate** to any risks involved and existing capacity
- **Consistent** i.e. everyone follows the same process and guiding principles
- **Simple** to use and understand
- **Streamlined** wherever possible with other processes to e.g. reduce duplication
- **Useful** for key audiences e.g. block heads, ESSP and GOSE

3 Improvements for discussion

3.1 A number of questions have been raised during the review process, which we would welcome views on:

- Could we make the quarterly monitoring reports easier to read and understand?
- Would the ESSP welcome any training to assist them in their new scrutiny role?
- We propose exception reports (only reporting those indicators not on target) for quarters 1 and 3 and full monitoring reports in quarters 2 and 4. Does the ESSP agree?
- Do you find the direction of travel symbols helpful?
- Would you welcome an end of year activity report, in addition to the full quarter 4 report?

Section: PARTNERSHIP
Title: Partnership Co-ordinator's Report
Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board
Date: 12 February 2007
Author: Amanda Hodge

a) Constitution

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board:

1. Agree the amended wording to paragraph 6.6 of the ESSP constitution as per Diana Francombe's email of 22 November 2007, an extract of which is detailed below.
2. Agree the amended wording to paragraph 5 of the ESSP constitution as detailed below.

Paragraph 6.6

Following the last ESSP meeting, the amended paragraph 6.6 of the constitution as detailed in the next paragraph was circulated by email for approval by the ESSP. To date no response has been received by the co-ordinator to this amendment.

"If a member of the ESSP changes to a different employer, loses his or her seat, or loses his or her honorary position, then their membership of the ESSP will automatically cease with immediate effect. If a member of the ESSP is facing adverse proceedings, declared bankrupt or is charged or summonsed for a criminal offence, other than a minor traffic offence, then the Partnership will expect the nominating body to consider whether they remain an appropriate nominee."

Paragraph 5

Since the last meeting the Community Partnerships Team has considered what action may be necessary to ensure a robust performance monitoring system is in place for the LAA. In addition, the County Council's independent auditor has asked us to clarify our approach to data quality. This also includes our partners' approach to data quality through the LAA.

Although each organisation has its own performance systems in place, the ESSP constitution provides an opportunity for us to give a joint commitment to improving data quality.

Our suggestions for amending the constitution are as follows:

Insert after 5.1.2 ...ensure that all data produced meets a high standard of data quality and is fit for purpose;

5. Operating Values

- 5.1. The ESSP will adopt the following operating values in all its business and transactions:
 - 5.1.1. maintain a focus on the county of East Sussex as a whole and the needs of its citizens;
 - 5.1.2. work positively and collaboratively to improve economic, social and environmental sustainability, thereby improving quality of life;
 - 5.1.3. strive to eliminate discrimination, deprivation and to value diversity;
 - 5.1.4. value and respect the contribution of all partners and provide mutual support, irrespective of sector or organisation; and
 - 5.1.5. communicate positively the work of the ESSP and its partners.

b) Website update

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board:

1. Visit the ESSP website and make suggestions for improvements to lisa.schrevel@eastsussex.gov.uk

The ESSP website was designed and launched in 2003 and is in need of being refreshed so that it can better meet the needs of partners and attract more users. The re-development of the site is being jointly funded and project managed by East Sussex County Council (ESCC). The project is being managed by Lisa Schrevel on behalf of the ESSP. The re-development of the site will include:

- The redesign and build of the ESSP home page
- A standard design and layout for additional ESSP pages
- The design and build of new Children's Trust Express (CTE) pages
- Revamped and improved navigation and marketing
- Improved accessibility and privacy, compliant with relevant guidelines and regulations

The project will commence in March 2007 and the redeveloped site will 'go live' in late May/early June. The site needs to be tested to ensure it is accessible and user friendly. As such, ESSP partners will be invited to test the site during April 2007. We would welcome partners' views of the existing website and suggestions of information or links that are missing to inform the site redevelopment. Please send any comments through to lisa.schrevel@eastsussex.gov.uk or call Lisa Schrevel on: 01273 481177

c) Follow on from 'Meet and Greet' sessions

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Board Executive Board:

1. Hold an away morning session on 26 July 2007 to review the Community Strategy and the Refresh of the LAA.

A number of issues were raised at the 'meet and greet' sessions with the new co-ordinator over the last few weeks, and as a result we would like to suggest that an 'away' morning session be arranged. Some of the issues included:

- Induction and integration of new members
- Scrutiny of LAA
- Refresh of the LAA to capture other priorities
- Awareness and purpose of the partnership

The purpose of the morning would be to consider the issues that are not currently covered in the LAA which will feed into the next Refresh and the revised Community Strategy and to further develop the partnership.

d) South East Partnership Improvement Project

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board:

1. Agree to nominate a small group to complete the self-assessment document on behalf of the Board.

Funding is being made available through the LGA/DCLG Capacity Building Fund to provide targeted resources to address the specific capacity building needs of partnerships within the South East. South East Employers and Shared Intelligence have been selected to develop the partnership improvement programme for the South East region. Each LSP has a fund of approximately £6,000 in training credits to be used through this programme.

In order to access the programme, partnerships must undertake a self-assessment which will identify areas for improvement. The self-assessment form has been piloted in 2 areas in the south east. Each of the LSPs undertook a unique approach to the assessment, one taking a full day and all LSP members working through the document and the other employing the chair, co-ordinator and a LSP member who completed the document in about an hour. The second is the proposed approach for the ESSP.

The final version of the self-assessment form will be published in mid February 2007 and each LSP will need to complete it by the end of March 2007.

Once completed, South East Employers and Shared Intelligence will analyse the results from all of the LSPs self assessments and will plan a support programme.

The range of support for partnerships includes:

- Networked learning – developing a network of practitioners to allow knowledge transfer between partnerships
- Partnership development skills – training programmes arranged to support partnerships’ needs either collectively or individually
- Dissemination of best practice – case studies published through a regular newsletter, annual conference, and regional events
- Web-based support – providing an online resource centre

The Partnership Improvement Programme is planned to be in place for one year.

The ESSP may wish to discuss how they would like to approach the completion of the self-assessment form.

e) Contact list

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board:

1. Contact Amanda Hodge with updated contact details including those of their deputies.

The contact list for the ESSP Board is currently being updated and it is important that we hold the contact details for people who will deputise when existing members are unavailable. The current list will be circulated at the meeting for members to update.

f) Local Government White Paper

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board:

1. Agree two ESSP members to attend the GOSE workshop in the afternoon of 15 March 2007 in London.

ESSP members will be aware the Government published a White Paper on 26 October 2006. The purpose was to ‘enable effective local services and to create better places, through new relationships and better governance’.

The key proposals that affect Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are summarised as follows:

- Confirmation of the **importance** of the LSP, that it is the partnership of all partnerships.
- Strengthened **leadership** role for local authorities on LSPs with the Council Leader agreeing the appointment of the LSP chair and for them to be key members of the partnership.
- Streamlined **performance framework** - with around 35 priorities for each area through the Local Area Agreement (LAA), plus statutory targets and additional local targets proposed by the LSP.

- New statutory requirement for county and unitary authorities to prepare a **delivery plan** for the sustainable community strategy (SCS) – known as the LAA.
- **Responsibility** for key partners to be involved in the delivery of the LAA, such as Primary Care Trusts, Youth Offending Teams, Fire and Rescue Services etcetera.
- Simplified **consultation** approach to the SCS, LAA and Local Development Framework (LDF) – with a single community engagement strategy required.
- Community **Cohesion** – encouragement to promote community cohesion through LSPs and sustainable community strategies.
- Collaboration across sub-regional areas – local authorities and their partners may find the new framework of **multi-area agreements** useful in their work across or within sub-regions.

This list is not exhaustive but gives a flavour of the changes.

If you would like more information about the white paper then the following hyperlinks may be of use:

- <http://www.communities.gov.uk>
- <http://whitepaper.lga.gov.uk/>

On 22 January 2007, Communities and Local Government published the White Paper Implementation Plan. It is clear from the plan the Government are keen to implement the actions contained within the White Paper as quickly as possible. GOSE are holding a series of workshops about the implementation of the plan. The first of these will be held on 15 March 2007 and it is hoped the Strategic Partnership Manager will attend on behalf of the ESSP.

Section: PARTNERSHIP
Title: ESSP Forward Plan
Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board
Date: 12 February 2007
Author: Amanda Hodge, Strategic Partnership Manager

Recommended

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board:

1. Discuss the suggestion in paragraph 2.2 of this report
2. Agree additional items to be included in the attached Forward Plan

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the ESSP on the Forward Plan of work.

2. Background

- 2.1 To ensure the ESSP meetings are interesting and productive, it is suggested ESSP members consider the following proposal:
- 2.2 At the meetings where the ESSP does not consider a full LAA monitoring report, we focus on a particular theme from the Sustainable Community Strategy. The themes of the strategy could be planned into the forward plan to ensure every area is explored.
- 2.3 The benefits of this approach are:
 - all areas of the sustainable community strategy will be kept fresh through the rotational review process
 - ESSP members will gain a deeper understanding of the sustainable community strategy priorities, action being taken to promote them and explore opportunities for joint working.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 ESSP members are invited to put forward additional topics in addition to the suggestion at paragraph 2.2 of this report.

East Sussex Strategic Partnership Executive Board – Forward Plan

Executive Board Meeting Dates	Expected Business
Thursday 22 February 2007, 10am, (Wealden DC offices, Hailsham)	Change of Chairman (<i>Agenda item no.11</i>) LAA Q3 Performance Monitoring (<i>Agenda item no.5</i>) LAA Refresh update (<i>Co-ordinator's report 4a</i>) Report: Implications of Local Government White Paper (<i>Co-ordinator's report 8h</i>) Community Strategy Review (<i>Agenda item no.3</i>) Data Quality report (<i>Co-ordinator's report 8c</i>)
Thursday 14 June 2007, 10am (venue to be confirmed)	LAA Yr 1 Q4 Performance Monitoring (formal report to GOSE)
Thursday 26 July 2007, 10am (venue to be confirmed)	Partnership Development away morning re: ESSP, refresh and the Community Strategy Review
Thursday 27 September 2007, 10am (venue to be confirmed)	LAA Yr 2 Q1 Performance Monitoring Subject Focus
Thursday 29 November 2007, 10am (venue to be confirmed)	LAA Yr 2 Q2 Performance Monitoring (formal report to GOSE)
Thursday 6 March 2008, 10am (venue to be confirmed)	LAA Yr 2 Q3 Performance Monitoring Subject Focus
Thursday 26 June 2008, 10am (venue to be confirmed)	LAA Yr 2 Q4 Performance Monitoring (formal report to GOSE)