

# Meeting Notes

10am, Tues 11 Jan 2011

Hastings Town Hall

## IN ATTENDANCE

### ESSP Members present:

Jeremy Leggett (Chair)	Action in Rural Sussex
Cllr Bob Tidy (Vice Chair)	East Sussex County Council (ESCC)
Ian Chisnall	Churches Together in Sussex
Cllr Gill Mattock (on behalf of Cllr David Tutt)	Eastbourne Borough Council
Peter Archer	Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Trevor Webb	Hastings Borough Council
John Hodges	Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance
Janet Thacker (on behalf of Debby Gill)	JobCentre Plus
Charles Everett	NHS Hastings & Rother
Rita Lewis	NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald
Steve Manwaring	SpeakUp Representative
Steve Hare	SpeakUp Representative
Robin Smith	Sussex Police
Chris Wick	Environment Agency
Cllr David Young (ES)	Sussex Associations of Local Councils
Cllr Jay Kramer (on behalf of Cllr Jeremy Birch)	Hastings Borough Council
Paul Harward (on behalf of Jon Griffiths)	Highways Agency

### Also in attendance (observers):

Becky Shaw	East Sussex County Council
Charles Lant	Wealden District Council
Gill Cameron-Waller	Wealden District Council
Ian Fitzpatrick (on behalf of Robert Cottrill)	Eastbourne Borough Council
Jane Mackney	East Sussex County Council
Roy Mawford	Hastings Borough Council
Sarah Dyde	East Sussex County Council
Shabana Bayjou	Hastings Borough Council
Cynthia Lyons	NHS Hastings & Rother
Kieran McNamara – item 7	East Sussex County Council
Paul Rideout – Item 6	East Sussex County Council
Jon Wheeler – Item 9	East Sussex County Council

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr David Tutt	Eastbourne Borough Council
Debby Gill	JobCentre Plus
Leighe Rogers	Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother District Council
Cllr James MacClearey	Lewes District Council
Cllr Robert Standley	Wealden District Council
Cllr Jeremy Birch	Hastings Borough Council
Gary Walsh	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Gilly Bartrip	South East England Development
Agency	
Jon Griffiths	Highway Agency
Martin Searle	Federation of Small Businesses
Richard Emmens	Government Office for the South East

Diana Grice  
Jane Hartnell  
Robert Cottrill  
Scott Lavocah

East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT  
Hastings Borough Council  
Eastbourne Borough Council  
Rother District Council

## NOTES

### **1) Welcome**

- 1.1 The chair welcomed all – those attending on behalf of others were identified.

### **2) Urgent Items of business**

- 2.1 None notified.

### **3) Notes of the meeting held on 3 November 2010 and Matters Arising**

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising**

Item 5

#### **Joint Conference with PCT – how partners can work together to reduce health inequalities**

The Conference has been organised for 3 February, to take place at The Towner, Eastbourne – full details have been circulated widely – if further information is required – contact Barbara Deacon – email: barbara.deacon@eastsussex.gov.uk

All other matters arising were dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

### **4) Declarations of Interest**

- 4.1 None reported.

### **5) Budget updates from partners**

- 5.1 Members reported on the effects the budget reductions will have on their organisation.

#### ESCC

5.2 Councillor Tidy reported that on 25<sup>th</sup> January Cabinet will meet to discuss proposals for the budget. The final settlement from Government had added to the £26m savings identified in December and a total of £37m savings would be needed for 2011/12. Children's Services had been particularly hard hit by changes to Specific Grants. There was still some uncertainty about the specific grants which supported community safety work, but Cllr Tidy hoped that the careful budget management that had been taking place would smooth the transition to lower expenditure levels in this area.

#### PCT

5.3 Charles Everett reported that there had been no change from the position reported at the last meeting. There was a Government requirement to make 30-40% savings on management costs and whilst the NHS budget had been maintained, inflation in the health economy would put pressure on budgets. PCTs will be brought together into clusters. East Sussex would be clustered with Brighton and Hove and West Sussex with single executive team by June 2011 until the abolition of PCTs in March 2013.

## DWP

5.4 The department would be required to make savings of 40% corporately and 17-20% operationally over the next four years. It was not yet clear what these savings would mean locally, but not much change in funding was expected locally in the first year. Janet Thacker reported that JobCentre Plus would be running an event on 10 February to introduce partners, whose organisations were losing staff, to the support services that was available at no cost.

## Environment Agency

5.5 Chris Wick reported that the Environment Agency would have a 30% reduction in both capital and revenue, but the local impact of the savings was not yet clear. In preparation, as part of cost reduction measures the Southern and Thames regions were being merged and Chris will become responsible for both West Sussex and East Sussex.

## Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance

5.5 John Hodges expressed concern about the impact of the public sector savings on charities some of which would be losing all funding.

## Wealden District Council

5.6 Charlie Lant reported that the front loading of savings had affected rural districts particularly badly and that Wealden had received the third worse settlement in the Country. The funding of the planning function for the South Downs National Park had been made at the expense of the rural districts in East Sussex, and was different to how such funding was achieved in other national park areas. Wealden had in place a transformation programme to make the savings and this would need to be accelerated in the light of the higher than expected level of savings required.

## Eastbourne Borough Council

5.7 Cllr Mattock reported that the savings required by Eastbourne Borough Council were £100k more than planned, but she was confident they could be made without affecting front line services

## Hastings Borough Council

5.8 Councillor Kramer reported that Hastings Borough Council faced a 25% cash reduction in its Government grant over the next two years and a 37% reduction in Area Based Grant. The Council would receive transitional grant for the next two years but faced a severe shortfall in 2013/14. An announcement would be made to staff about plans for making savings prior to the beginning of public consultation later in the week. Decisions would be made by Cabinet on 16 February and Council on 28 February.

## Parish Councils

5.9 Councillor David Young noted that parish council precepts were not subject to the same capping arrangements as borough, district and county councils. In pursuance of the Government's localism agenda, there might be scope for parish precepts for services that local people have identified as important to them.

## Sussex Police

5.10 Robin Smith reported that the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement confirmed the assumptions the police had made about future spending, which was for a 5.1% reduction in 2011/12 and 6.7% in 2012/13. There had been concern about the future of the Neighbourhood Policing Fund which provided PCSOs, but this was now likely to be available in 2011/12

5.11 Becky Shaw informed the meeting that the Leaders of the borough, district and county council were to make joint representations to the Secretary of State for Local Government. They would try to make the case for the economic development issues in the County in particular and the dependence of the County's economy on public sector employment.

## **6) East Sussex Compact Annual Review**

6.1 Paul Rideout presented the above (which can be found as follows:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2010/compactreview/download.htm>  
and highlighted three areas of best practice for 2010/11 as follows:

- a) Sussex Police Volunteers
- b) LPT3 Consultation
- c) NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and Hastings and Rother – Compact principles for funding.

6.2 Paul reported at the last Compact workshop, held on 3 November 2010, the three priority areas identified were:

- a) engagement
- b) transparency
- c) communications

6.3 Nationally a new compact was launched in December 2010. The East Sussex Compact had been recognised as a model of best practice nationally. It was proposed to adopt any aspects of the national compact which strengthened the local work, but not to adopt the new compact where it was less robust than existing local arrangements. The Compact Steering Group had also issued a note on "Getting the best out of the voluntary and community sector" which should help the statutory sector during times of financial retrenchment.

6.4 Steve Manwaring said that the County had a unique three tier Compact, which should be retained. He understood the ambitions that people had for the VCS nationally and locally as part of the "big society", but care would need to be taken that local organisations had the capacity to carry out what was being asked of them.

## **7) Economic Development Update**

7.1 Kieran McNamara stated that the Local Economic Assessment (LEA) was near completion and would shortly be sent out for consultation. The LEA would provide the evidence base for the Economic Strategy which was being developed with a multi agency reference group.

7.2 Kieran reported that the interim LEP Board will meet on 24 January 2011 and that future governance arrangements were still being developed. It was likely that, given the size of the LEP area and the number of partners involved, an executive and assembly model would be developed. Notwithstanding that formal arrangements were not yet in place, dialogue and work between partners was developing well on areas of mutual interest across the region.

7.3 Regional Growth Fund – £1.4 billion had been allocated to this fund nationally. Bids must be private sector led. The bid for East Sussex, based on projects which had been ready to start was being developed, chaired by Eastbourne Borough Council's Chief Executive. Bids must be centred on areas where there was the greatest dependence on the public sector in the economy. A bid was therefore proposed for Hastings Town centre

phase 3 and Enviro 21 corridor. The bid would be for £7.5m, 20% of the costs and the lead bidder would be SeaSpace.

7.4 In response to a question from John Hodges, Kieran confirmed that broadband remained high on the list of priorities for the County, but the Government had announced a separate fund for this work, so bids would need to be made to that rather than to the RGF.

7.5 In response to concern that there was a perception in some places the LEP felt very closed and top down, Kieran acknowledged that getting engagement as comprehensive as wanted had been an issue across the country and that every effort would be made to keep the LEP as engaged locally and open as possible as the process developed.

## **8) ESSP priorities oral updates**

8.1 Joint Communications – Jane Mackney reported the arranged meeting had to be postponed due to bad weather – an update will be given at the next meeting.

**Agreed – Jane to report back at next meeting**

8.2 Better use of physical assets – Robin Smith explained the proposed way forward and asked that group members give him nominated contacts for the work in order that in order for him to proceed.

**Agreed – All to let Robin have contact points and Robin will report back to the next meeting on next steps.**

8.3 Place based budgeting – Becky Shaw reminded the meeting that this work needed to focus on either a place or a specific group of service users. She gave the example of the work that had been carried out already on Integrated Offender Management and made reference to the responsibility for public health transferring to the County Council in future, which she anticipated would bring opportunities to make better use of available budgets. The County Council continued to be interested in working better with vulnerable families and repeated her request that ESSP members let her know if they were interested in being involved. She would arrange a meeting with Jeremy Leggett to discuss the possibility of work with Parishes in this area.

**Agreed – All to advise Becky if they wished to be involved in work with families**

## **9) LTP3 Post Consultation Update**

9.1 Jon Wheeler gave an update on the above consultation – which closed the previous week – Jon thanked group members for comments received and invited any final comments by the end of next week (21 January 2011). Analysis of the responses was still being carried out, but most responses were generally supportive. Jon agreed to circulate a summary of the responses receive and organise a future workshop on the final LPT3 proposals.

**Agreed**

- (1) Jon to circulate summary**
- (2) Sarah Dyde to liaise with Jon Wheeler to agree suitable date.**

## **10) LAA2 Performance Monitoring**

LAA will cease from April 2011. The ESSP agreed that the LAA had provided a focus for important improvements in the County and that the partnership would need to consider local joint priorities improvement and how to measure them when the LAA came to an end.

## **11) Nominations for Chairperson**

11.1 Nominations for Chairperson – Councillor Tidy thanked the Chairman for his hard work and commitment over the last 2 years. Elections will take place at the next meeting in April and the new Chairperson will take up their post from the July meeting.

**Agreed – All nominations to be sent to Councillor Tidy/Becky Shaw, with agreement from the nominated person**

**12) Any other Business**

None

**13) Date of next meeting**

13.1 The next meeting will take place on Monday 4 April 2011 at 2pm in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes

<b>SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 11 January 2011</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
8.1	<b>Joint communications – Jane Mackney agreed to report back at next meeting</b>
8.2	<b>Better use of physical assets – Robin Smith agreed to report back at next meeting</b>
8.3	<b>Place based budgeting – ESSP members to advise Becky Shaw if they are interested in being involved.</b>
9	<b>LTP3 Post Consultation Update – Jon to circulate summary. Sarah Dyde to liaise with Jon Wheeler to agree suitable date.</b>
11	<b>Nominations for Chairperson – ESSP members to forward nominations to Councillor Tidy/Becky Shaw with agreed from nominated person.</b>