

IN ATTENDANCE

ESSP Members present:

Adrian Brown (for Gary Walsh)
Caroline Wood (for Gilly Bartrip)
Charles Everett
Chris Wick
Cllr Bob Tidy (Vice Chair)
Cllr James MacCleary
Cllr Pam Doodles
Cllr Peter Pragnell
Ian Chisnall
Jeremy Leggett (Chair)
John Hodges
Ken Stevens
Robert Cottrill
Richard Emmens

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
South East England Development Agency
NHS Hastings & Rother
Environment Agency
East Sussex County Council
Lewes District Council
Wealden District Council
Hastings Borough Council
Churches Together in Sussex
Action in Rural Sussex
Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance
Federation of Small Businesses
Eastbourne Borough Council
Government Office for the South East

Also in attendance:

Sandra Prail
Becky Shaw
Katherine Perrin
Alison Horan
Lisa Schrevel
Paul Rideout
Tom Skilton
Gill Cameron-Waller
Alex White
Charlie Lant
Roy Mawford
Scott Lavocah
Cynthia Lyons
Jo Orchard-Webb

Audit Commission
East Sussex County Council
Wealden District Council
Wealden District Council
Wealden District Council
Hastings Borough Council
Rother District Council
NHS Hastings & Rother
University of Brighton

NOTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

- a) The chair led the partnership in a moment of silence to pay respects to those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.
- b) The chair welcomed all members to the meeting, especially Adrian Brown attending for Gary Walsh, Caroline Wood attending for Gilly Bartrip, Paul Rideout as a presenter, Jo

Orchard-Webb attending for her PhD research and Councillor James MacCleary to his first meeting with the ESSP.

c) Apologies were received from:

Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother District Council
Cllr David Young	Sussex Association of Local Councils
Debby Gill	Job Centre Plus
John Barnes	NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald
Jon Griffiths	Highways Agency
Leighe Rogers	National Probation Service (Sussex)
Robin Smith	Sussex Police
Steve Manwaring	SpeakUp Representative

d) No apologies were received from:

Chris Piper	Learning & Skills Council
Steve Hare	SpeakUp Representative

2) Urgent items of business

None.

3) Notes of the meeting held on 2 October 2010 and Matters Arising

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record. Jeremy Leggett informed the partnership that the ESSP Support Team have received confirmation that both the ESSP and joint bids for Progress through Partnership development funding have been successful.

4) Declarations of Interest

None.

5) The East Sussex Compact

a) Paul Rideout, Voluntary and Community Services Coordinator at East Sussex County Council gave a presentation on the East Sussex Compact (copy available on the ESSP website) outlining the achievements of the Compact in 2009/10, the way forward and what support is requested from ESSP. The main points were:

- An outline of the support network for the Compact, including the Compact Steering Group of whom Gary Walsh, Steve Hare and Steve Manwaring are all members, providing a direct link for the ESSP, and Compact Champions who assist with the day-to-day embedding of the Compact
- The East Sussex Compact receiving an excellence award for the past two years from the Compact Commission
- The existence of Compact Checklists, which support the embedding of the Compact into the day-to-day work of organisations and partnerships
- In 2009, over 15 documents across East Sussex, including the ESSP's Constitution, include a commitment to the Compact
- 55 organisations across East Sussex are members of the key countywide thematic partnerships, however only 13 are Compact Signatories (25%)
- Compact Steering Group planning to target education organisations and the private sector in the coming year, and would like to encourage the ESSP to promote the Compact to thematic partnerships
- Ambition to establish an East Sussex Kite Mark to highlight organisations which are compliant with specific codes
- Draft 2010/11 Compact Action Plan due to be launched in 2010

- b) Members commented that they were encouraged by the commitment to engage with the private sector, however, that the key must be to demonstrate how the private sector can benefit from utilising the Compact.
- c) Members enquired whether any countywide thematic partnerships have a particular deficit of Compact signatories as members and were informed that the newly formed East Sussex Climate Change Board had the least number. However, it is important to note that it has a high number of private sector members, likewise thematic with a high number of education-based members, or those with regional or national representatives (since it would not necessarily be appropriate to sign a local Compact) may appear to be least compliant but work is underway to investigate this.
- d) Ken Stevens commented that from a national Federation of Small Businesses perspective, there is a recognition of the commitments of the Compact, and that work is ongoing in this area, including a number of principles having been drawn up which are relevant locally. Wealden District Council and Rother District Council are already signed up.
- e) Paul commented that local training has been very successful, and that the Federation of Small Businesses would be very welcome if they wanted to be involved.

ESSP Members Agreed to:

1. Receive an outline of how organisations and partnerships can sign up to the East Sussex Compact, and a list of the Compact Champions in East Sussex

FOR DECISION

6) LAA 2 Performance Monitoring

- a) Alison Horan introduced the performance monitoring report, outlining that it remains an exception report but that additional disaggregated information has been added in recognition of the key role local data plays in coordinating resources to achieve local targets.
- b) She also commented that while the report showed more amber RAG ratings than the previous quarter, this is due to a change in the way that the Children's Services department at East Sussex County Council reports on performance. RAGs are now based on the expectation of reaching targets for the year.
- c) Members enquired about the countywide bid to the Future Jobs Fund and were informed that Hastings Borough Council is leading on behalf of the county. The bid was successful and 400 jobs are currently being created. The jobs and business growth theme group of the Hastings and Bexhill Economic Alliance are monitoring the scheme. A more detailed update is available on the [ESSP website](#).
- d) Members commented that the process has been very successful to date, however, very few private sector partners are involved in the scheme which needs to be addressed.
- e) Members also commented that the countywide learning from the Future Jobs Fund needs to be articulated across the county and with all sectors, and in particular with the third sector.
- f) Becky Shaw agreed to put this on the agenda of the Recession Taskforce meeting being held later in the day.
- g) Richard Emmens from GOSE commented on the quality of jobs being created, and stated that East Sussex was an area of good practice.
- h) Charlie Lant gave a brief introduction to the housing related indicators, stating that countywide housing delivery was down from 4200 to 3464, an 18% reduction, and affordable housing had suffered a 39% reduction.

- i) He commented that the reductions equate to reduced leverage with developers. Viability studies are being supported, however local authorities have been unable to insist on the usual 30-40% levels of affordable housing or infrastructure support within new developments.
- j) He also commented that while these are significant reductions the initial LAA figures were challenged with GOSE due to the expected impact of the recession. These disappointing figures also mask the plethora of work being undertaken in ensuring delivery and maintaining relationships with developers. The Kickstart scheme has also provided much needed funds.
- k) GOSE expressed their support for the work undertaken by the Housing Officers Group, and highlighted the level of optimism felt by developers recently.
- l) Cllr Doodes thanked members for their willingness to speak to the Wealden's Scrutiny Working Party. A report has been completed which should be of interest to all members.
- m) Alison also raised the question of the LAA annual refresh. This year the focus of the refresh is largely on those not "locked down" i.e. those where the targets were accepted as interim due to the potential impact of the recession, namely NI 153, 154 and 155. The partnership is seeking agreement for these indicators not to feature as reward targets, as with the teenage pregnancy target NI 112, to ensure that potential rewards are not adversely affected by the recession.
- n) She commented that bilateral discussions are already taking place between the relevant Indicator Leads and the Government Office for the South East (GOSE), however that as with last year, the government timetable does not allow enough time for the ESSP to formally consider the refresh. Therefore, it is proposed that Jeremy Leggett and Councillor Bob Tidy as Chair and Vice-Chair/accountable body representative respectively are given delegated authority to approve the refresh.

ESSP Members Agreed to:

1. Approve the overall performance,
2. Carry out any action needed to ensure the future delivery of LAA2, and
3. Give Jeremy Leggett and Councillor Tidy delegated authority to sign off the LAA refresh on behalf of the ESSP

7) Pride of Place Champion updates

- a) Recession – Cllr Bob Tidy
 - i) Cllr Tidy informed the partnership that East Sussex County Council's £1million recession fund continues to provide support to the county. The fund attracted a great deal of interest with a range of applicants. Of the 21 applications received, 12 have been approved with £483,000 committed alongside some match funding. Supported projects include one-to-one counselling and the Buy with Confidence scheme.
 - ii) Cllr Tidy also explained that applicants initially rejected were encouraged to re-apply and that once 75% of the fund has been allocated, the initiative will be reviewed as to whether to extend it. A full list of all the projects supported can be found in the [East Sussex County Council cabinet report](#): page 21
 - iii) Members were also updated on the new Local Economic Assessment duty which affects all six local authorities. This duty coincides with the need to refresh the countywide Economic Strategy; therefore the assessment will act as an evidence base for the strategy. Members were also informed that the newly configured Business Board meets soon, with a strengthened approach to business engagement.
- b) Improving Transport – Jeremy Leggett
 - i) Jeremy Leggett updated the partnership that the two planned Local Transport Plan 3 workshops for ESSP members took place in November and December,

with the intention that the workshops will be repeated to review draft options in the near future. Members were encouraged to feedback on the approach adopted for developing this strategy.

- ii) Members commented on the usefulness of the sessions, and that while the duty for publication lies with East Sussex County Council, it is essential that it is a partnership document, as much in the ownership of the ESSP as possible.
 - iii) Members acknowledged the natural tendency to focus on road-based issues rather than rail, however the next step in the process will be to set the strategic aims of the plan, establishing what issues and areas will take precedence.
 - iv) Councillor Pragnell updated the partnership on the progress made by the A21 Reference Group, a lobby group whose focus has now expanded to include rail. The timetable has slipped another year for the A21 Tunbridge Wells duelling. The Hastings and Bexhill Link Road enquiry has been completed with a result due in March 2010. A third route is now being proposed due to the costs of both the North and South routes. Rail services to and from London are under threat due to the expansion of the London Thames Link to Tunbridge Wells. Councillor Pragnell also encouraged members to write in support of East Sussex County Council's complaint to Network Rail because they do not take regeneration into account when looking at the services they provide.
- c) Climate Change – Chris Wick
- i) Chris Wick informed the partnership that the Climate Change Board has yet to meet as it has taken longer than expected to fill the last places on the partnership. He acknowledged that it has been a busy period for climate change with Copenhagen and 10:10, and that for the first time the LAA performance monitoring report has an amber indicator for climate change which will need investigating. Chris requested a 15/20 minute slot at the April meeting to provide the partnership with an in-depth update.

ESSP Members agreed:

1. To receive an in-depth update on the Climate Change Board's progress at the April 2010 meeting.

- d) Alcohol Misuse – Charles Everett
- i) Charles Everett informed the partnership that he is continuing to meet with Robin Smith. He updated the partnership on:
 - Strategy: the publication of the [East Sussex Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy](#) in December 2009 which has five themes: under 18 drinking; 18-24 binge drinking; high-risk drinking; families and carers and joint planning. Charles also informed the partnership that both PCTs have agreed to improve investment in this area by £1 million over the life of the strategy commencing in April 2010.
 - Information: some progress has been made in this area. There is now agreement in principle for sharing anonymous A&E data with the police, with the intention of indentifying hotspots. However, IT is proving problematic and in the interim a data sub group has been set up.
 - Communications: An Alcohol Communications and Social Marketing Plan is being discussed between partners as there is potential to bring together all the separate work being done by partners across East Sussex.
- e) Housing – Charlie Lant
- i) Charlie Lant updated the partnership on progress made on the Single Conversation process. Waiting lists are a common theme across the county, and the Single Conversation process allows all 6 councils to work together on one local investment plan for a combined housing agreement, similar to the LAA but focusing specifically on housing.

- ii) He commented that the process will use Pride of Place as its starting point, building from the bottom up with reference to the key local differences between Districts and Boroughs. It will also build on the good track record that East Sussex has for joint funding applications.
- iii) A more detailed update is available [on the ESSP website](#).

8) The Way Forward

- a) Jeremy Leggett introduced this item, updating the partnership on the number of changes occurring locally and nationally that will undoubtedly affect the ESSP. He commented that in light of these changes, outlined in the background briefing paper, there was a need to have an open and honest conversation about the future, and whether it is appropriate to make decisions on specific governance changes at this time.
- b) He also informed that partnership that he had written to Councillor Peter Jones as leader of East Sussex County Council in regards to his challenging comments on where the council might be going. Councillor Jones' reply encouraged a conversation with the ESSP. View Councillor Jones' comments [on the webcast](#) - Item 6 at 39mins 38seconds.
- c) Members agreed that while a challenging financial environment is certain, East Sussex is a very forward-looking county. It was suggested that lessons may be able to be learnt from the Community Safety review currently taking place and that imaginative thinking will need to be applied if organisations are to survive with potentially 20% less funding.
- d) Members questioned whether there was sufficient level of challenge across all organisations around the table to guarantee the best outcomes for local people, and whether relationships were mature enough to support this level of challenge. Members agreed that they needed a better understanding geographically and organisationally of each other in order to undertake informed debate and challenge.
- e) The partnership was updated on the East Sussex LSP Chairs and Coordinators Away Day held on Tuesday 12 January, where open and productive debates were held around what LSP model would be sustainable for the future. It was agreed that LSPs need to be adding value and delivering what cannot be done by others.
- f) Members discussed the progress made to date on cost-saving across the county, including county council leaders in the south east meeting to look at cost saving. All agreed that after the more obvious back-office efficiencies, much more difficult decisions must be made. This is underlined by the emerging lessons of the Total Place pilots, and the ambitions of both the LAA and CAA processes.
- g) Members noted that partnership-working must be the solution to the upcoming financial pressures, with the challenge of how to prioritise resources across the whole of Pride of Place.
- h) Members also agreed that until the result of the general election is known, and subsequently their ambitions for local government, it is too early to debate the future in any great detail. Members agreed to return to this debate in the summer/autumn.
- i) The partnership, on reviewing Item 8b the ESSP Governance paper, decided against making any governance decisions at this time other than to agree that the ESSP Support Team have delegated authority to approve new members to the East Sussex Assembly.

ESSP Members agreed:

2. To allow the ESSP Support Team delegated authority to formalise the membership of a number of key organisations and partnerships on the East Sussex Assembly
3. To return to the issue of governance and the future of the ESSP in the summer/autumn of 2010, and
4. That the Chairman write, on behalf of the ESSP, to all statutory agencies, urging them to consider Pride of Place as a key context and statement of joint priorities when local budgets and businesses plans are being decided.

9) Topics for Future Meetings

- a) Members agreed to include the Local Economic Assessment and the East Sussex Climate Change Board as key topics for the April 2010 meeting.

ESSP Members agreed:

1. To include the Local Economic Assessment and the East Sussex Climate Change Board as key topics for the April meeting.

FOR INFORMATION SECTION

10) Coordinators Report

- a) Taken as read - no comments raised.

11) Migrant Action Group Update

- a) Taken as read - no comments raised.

12) Any Other Business

- a) None.

13) Dates of future meetings

- a) Members were asked to note the next three meeting dates: 28 April 2010, 22 July 2010 and 3 November 2010.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded at 12.30pm

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS

Item	Action
FOR DECISION SECTION	
5	<p>East Sussex Compact</p> <p>1. To receive an outline of how organisations and partnerships can sign up to the East Sussex Compact, and a list of the Compact Champions in East Sussex</p>
6	<p>LAA2 Performance Monitoring</p> <p>1. To approve the overall performance</p> <p>2. Carry out any action needed to ensure the future delivery of LAA2,</p> <p>3. To give Jeremy Leggett and Councillor Tidy delegated authority to sign off the LAA refresh on behalf of the ESSP</p>
7	<p>Pride of Place Champion Updates</p> <p>1. To receive an in-depth update on the Climate Change Board's progress at the April 2010 meeting.</p>
8	<p>The Way Forward</p> <p>1. To allow the ESSP Support Team delegated authority to formalise the membership of a number of key organisations and partnerships on the East Sussex Assembly</p> <p>2. To return to the issue of governance and the future of the ESSP in the summer/autumn of 2010, and</p> <p>3. That the Chairman write, on behalf of the ESSP, to all statutory agencies, urging them to consider Pride of Place as a key context and statement of joint priorities when local budgets and businesses plans are being decided.</p>
9	<p>Topics for the Next Meeting</p> <p>1. To include the Local Economic Assessment and the East Sussex Climate Change Board as key topics for the April meeting.</p>
FOR INFORMATION SECTION	
9	<p>Coordinators Report</p> <p>None.</p>
10	<p>Migrant Action Group Update</p> <p>None.</p>
11	<p>Coordinators Report</p> <p>None.</p>
12	<p>Any Other Business (AOB)</p> <p>None.</p>