

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 Rebecca Madell (for Cllr David Tutt)	Eastbourne Borough Council
Adrian Brown (for Gary Walsh)	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Chris Wick	Environment Agency
Richard Emmens	Government Office for the South East
Ken Stevens	Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Jay Kramer (for Cllr Jeremy Birch)	Hastings Borough Council
John Hodges	Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance
Arthur Norton (for Jon Griffiths)	Highways Agency
Debby Gill	JobCentre Plus
Charles Everett	NHS Hastings & Rother
Rita Lewis	NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald
Cllr James MacClearey	Lewes District Council
Cllr Ian Jenkins (for Cllr Carl Maynard)	Rother District Council
Steve Manwaring	SpeakUp Representative
Steve Hare	SpeakUp Representative
Caroline Wood (for Gilly Bartrip)	South East England Development Agency
Leighe Rogers	Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
Robin Smith	Sussex Police
Cllr Robert Standley	Wealden District Council

Also in attendance (regular observers):

Becky Shaw	East Sussex County Council
Jane Mackney	East Sussex County Council
Jon Wheeler	East Sussex County Council
Lisa Schrevel	East Sussex County Council
Robert Cottrill	Eastbourne Borough Council
Roy Mawford	Hastings Borough Council
Cynthia Lyons	NHS Hastings & Rother
Charles Lant	Wealden District Council
Gill Cameron-Waller	Wealden District Council

NOTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

- a) The chair welcomed all members to the meeting and in particular Cllrs Madell, Kramer and Jenkins who were delegating for Cllrs Tutt, Birch and Maynard respectively. He welcomed Cllr Robert Standley, who had replaced Cllr Pam Doodes as Leader of Wealden District Council and was now his council's representative on the ESSP and, in his absence, Cllr Jeremy Birch who had replaced Cllr Peter Pragnell as Leader of Hastings Borough Council and now his council's representative on the ESSP. The Chair had written to both Cllr Doodes and Pragnell thanking them for their contributions over the years.
- b) Finally, the chair welcomed regular observers and the 20 or so delegates from the Assembly Conference who had stayed on to observe the ESSP meeting.
- c) Apologies were received from:

Cllr Davaid Tutt	Eastbourne Borough Council
Gary Walsh	East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr Jeremy Birch	Hastings Borough Council
Jon Griffiths	Highways Agency
Debby Gill	JobCentre Plus
Cllr Carl Maynard	Rother District Council
Gilly Bartrip	South East England Development Agency
Cllr David Young	Sussex Association of Local Councils

2) Notes of the meeting held on 28 April 2010 and Matters Arising

- a) The notes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.
- b) Steve Manwaring informed members that Compact Voice has awarded East Sussex a "green flag" in recognition of exemplary partnership working which has led to better outcomes for local communities. Specifically, the East Sussex Compact has been recognised for having a strong Compact Champions network, allocating sufficient resources to help implement the Compact, and having a strong Local Compact implementation group. [Click here for more information](#)
- c) Charles Lant informed members that the Local Investment Plan (LIP) will go before the East Sussex Local Authority Leaders Group on 23 July for agreement. The Plan covers a three year period from 2011. The LIP is not a bidding document but will be used to ensure that Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), which distributes government funds for the provision of affordable housing, takes account of local priorities. The LIP, which will be informed by the Local Transport Plan, Local Economic Assessment and other core strategies, will also be used to help inform HCA's investment decisions. The need for housing investment will be articulated to Government as soon as possible so that local partners can negotiate with the HCA on the levels of investment required for the county.

ESSP Members agreed to formally support a joint housing investment bid from the East Sussex Local Authorities.

- d) Members noted that, since the last meeting, the Government had scrapped the Comprehensive Area Assessment and introduced a number of other proposed policy changes, for example the abolition of Prime Care Trusts as part of the Health White Paper. GOSE also confirmed that the Government has agreed to the abolition of Government Offices by next summer. This will change the context within which strategic partnership working takes place.

- e) The Chair noted that ESSP members need to fully understand the new operating environment in order to inform decisions on what their unique role could be and where they could meaningfully add value.

3) 2009/10 Annual Review

- a) Members noted achievements and ongoing challenges during the year via the Local Area Agreement, Countywide Action Plan and associated work undertaken including keeping Pride of Place up to date via countywide plan reviews.
- b) Members noted that, during the Assembly Conference, a number of suggestions had arisen that are already being successfully implemented – for example the development of volunteering infrastructure across East Sussex. Members asked how ESSP’s achievements and impact can be better communicated to wider partners, elected members and the public, and whether partners could assist.
- c) Members stated raising awareness of what partners have done, how they have done that together and what impact that has had on local communities and partner organisations was of value. As part of a communications drive, ESSP members could also act as ambassadors for ESSP and partnership working more widely.
- d) A question was raised as to whether, in the light of the financial constraints being faced, ESSP should involve the public in identifying which of the priorities set out in Pride of Place ESSP should focus on.
- e) Members noted that the Local Area Agreement (LAA) was in its final year. The future of LAAs is unclear and guidance from Government is awaited. The LAA reward grant has also been cut, with the remaining 50% (£4.9 million) being withdrawn by Government as part of its in-year cuts. This will have a major impact on activities partners had already planned to do within this financial year, and thus might also affect anticipated performance by the end of the LAA in March 2011.
- f) Government Office South East (GOSE) noted that the LAA sits within the wider localism agenda. What shape it might take may be up to local strategic partnerships, depending on the impact Government policy has on relationships with local authorities and partnerships.

ESSP Members agreed to

1. Endorse the end of Year 2 Local Area Agreement performance report, and
2. Develop and enhance its communications, building on its existing Communications and Engagement Plan. They agreed for this to be done in the first instance through the existing Local Authority Communications Officer Group, but to involve other ESSP partners’ communications staff to ensure the widest possible partner engagement in developing and implementing joint communications.

FOR DISCUSSION

4) The Local Transport Plan (LTP3)

- a) Jon Wheeler, Transport Strategy Manager, East Sussex County Council explained that the LTP3 was not just about long term transport planning but an important tool for delivering jobs, access to services and other partnership priorities across the county.
- b) East Sussex County Council has a statutory duty to prepare an LTP, but was keen to ask what partners could bring to the table, where they could add value, and what kind of solutions could be developed to deliver the plan’s objectives - for example cross-cutting collaboration, changes in policies, using assets differently or changing the way services were commissioned and delivered.

- c) To set the scene, Jon explained that LTP3 was more flexible, more local and longer term than previous transport plans. It would include a long term, 15 year, strategy accompanied by short term, 3-5 year, implementation plans. The proposed timescale was to 2026 to fit with Pride of Place and Local Development Frameworks. The draft plan, which will be consulted on later in the year, sets out an over-arching vision, five strategic goals, four strategic priorities and four geographical areas prioritised for planning and infrastructure development. The goals, priorities and areas reflect priorities set out in Pride of Place.
- d) A 'preferred' strategy has been drafted which, in addition to maintaining transport infrastructure, shifts emphasis away from engineering to education, sustainable modes of transport and non-transport interventions – such as how services are designed and delivered, people's attitudes and behaviour and where other capital is being invested e.g. housing developments. It was also noted that the Government had removed the requirement for a regional plan and regional transport strategy, and had also already imposed major in-year cuts to local transport improvements and major schemes ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.
- e) In essence, given financial and environmental constraints and local priorities such as tackling climate change and supporting economic development, there was a real need to reduce the need for transport (e.g. by locating services near to existing transport systems), to make better use of the transport infrastructure that already exists and develop more sustainable transport solutions for the future.
- f) Returning to the challenges set out at the start of the presentation, partners made the following comments and observations:
 - i) They were pleased to see the climate change priority reflected in the draft plan, and the emerging Countywide Climate Change Strategy being developed by the Climate Change Partnership for East Sussex should look closely at how it can contribute to the LTP3 and vice versa.
 - ii) Members were also pleased to see reference to tackling social exclusion and improving quality of life, but asked planners to ensure consultation included consideration of social issues such as the design of buses for disabled access, the availability of toilets and other important facilities for those travelling.
 - iii) It was noted that in 1947, during another period of great financial austerity, villages in England were linked up to electricity and water. If the political will exists, broadband could also be installed in rural areas. ESSP should consider lobbying Government to bring about a common standard of broadband access across rural England.
 - iv) However, it was recognised that not all of the access issues in rural areas will be solved by improved broadband, and there was a need for realism – such as how far people would be willing to cycle for example. Village, town and micro-level transport solutions should be investigated alongside ways to incentivise local communities to develop these at low cost. The County Council's pump priming of 16 urban and rural transport schemes to reduce social exclusion and improve access to services could provide useful ideas on future initiatives.
 - v) Collectively, members of ESSP represent the largest employers in the county. Partners should look at what more they can do to develop and implement transport schemes that have encouraged and enabled staff to travel more sustainably, or travel less. Existing schemes and ideas should be shared.
 - vi) There will need to be buy-in from communities if a 15 year strategy is to remain robust and relevant. Members noted that older people and children and young people for example, both of whom list transport as a top priority, had been

engaged in developing the plan to date. Members offered the county council access to local groups for further or ongoing consultation and engagement.

- vii) Some partners, Wealden District Council for example, are moving toward single sites, flexible and home working – thereby reducing the need to travel. Assembly conference delegates had also shown considerable interest in shared resources and collocation. If investigated alongside LTP3 development, these ideas could offer a way to deliver some goals within available resources.
- viii) Killed and seriously injured on our roads remains a high priority – whilst the number of deaths has fallen, the numbers seriously injured has not. The emotional and physical impact of this could not be underestimated, but neither could the cost to public services and society more widely. As with a number of points raised above, behavioural change would be an important key to reducing the number of seriously injured on our roads. It was noted that the recently established Road Casualty Reduction Board was looking at evidence in order to target enforcement in accident hot spots.
- g) Members were thanked for their contributions and informed that the public and partners would be consulted on LTP3 over a 12 week period from September. The Plan will be put to the County Council's Cabinet for agreement in early 2011, for implementation from April 2011.

ESSP Members agreed to engage in the consultation on an individual basis, and as a partnership to look at how transport priorities can be integrated into or linked with other non-transport priorities.

5) 2010 East Sussex Assembly

- a) Members noted the large and diverse attendance and range of ideas that had emerged through discussions. Until all those ideas had been collated and fed back it would be difficult to consider what ESSP could usefully focus on in the short term.

ESSP Members agreed to:

1. E-ballot ESSP members on ideas arising from the Assembly. Ideas shortlisted via the e-ballot would be discussed at the next ESSP meeting in November, and then
2. Set up a task group to look the shortlisted ideas in more detail

6) Any Other Business

- a) Becky Shaw informed members of the Government's proposal to allow local areas to set up Local Enterprise Partnerships, which will replace the economic development function currently held by the soon to be abolished Regional Development Agencies.
- b) East Sussex Local Authority Council Leaders will be discussing Local Enterprise Partnership for East Sussex on 23 July. If any member wanted more information, they should contact Kieran McNamara (Kieran.mcnamara@eastsussex.gov.uk).

7) Dates of future meetings

- a) Members were asked to put the next two ESSP meeting dates in their diary:
 - i) 3 November 2010 at Bexhill Town Hall; and
 - ii) 11 January 2011 (venue to be confirmed).

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded at 1.15pm.

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS

Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>No actions</p>
2	<p>Notes of the meeting held on 28 April 2010 and Matters Arising</p> <p>ESSP Members agreed to formally support a joint housing investment bid from the East Sussex Local Authorities.</p>
3	<p>2009/10 Annual Review</p> <p>1. Endorse the end of Year 2 Local Area Agreement performance report, and</p> <p>2. ESSP Members agreed to develop and enhance its communications effort, building on its existing Communications and Engagement Plan. They agreed for this to be done in the first instance through the existing Local Authority Communications Officer Group, but to involve other ESSP partners' communications staff to ensure the widest possible partner engagement in developing and implementing joint communications.</p>
FOR DISCUSSION SECTION	
4	<p>Local Transport Plan 3</p> <p>ESSP Members agreed to engage in the consultation on an individual basis, and as a partnership to look at how transport priorities can be integrated into or linked with other non-transport priorities.</p>
5	<p>2010 East Sussex Assembly</p> <p>ESSP Members agreed to</p> <p>1. E-ballot ESSP members on ideas arising from the Assembly. Ideas shortlisted via the e-ballot would be discussed at the next ESSP meeting in November, and then</p> <p>2. Set up a task group to look the shortlisted ideas in more detail</p>
6	<p>Any Other Business (AOB)</p> <p>No actions</p>