

Meeting Notes

Tuesday 8 September 2015
East Sussex Fire and Rescue
Headquarters, Eastbourne

IN ATTENDANCE

ESSP Members present:

Jessica Britton

Cllr. Chris Dowling

Michael Gough-Bouijs

Neil Honor (speaker)

Jeremy Leggett

Steve Manwaring (Chair)

Cllr. Carl Maynard

Graham Peters

Ashley Scarff

Michael Turner

Gary Walsh

Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford, and
Hastings & Rother CCG

East Sussex County Council

JobCentre Plus

Sussex Police

Action in Rural Sussex

SpeakUp Representative

Rother District Council

Team East Sussex

High Weald Lewes Havens CCG

Environment Agency

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Also in attendance (official observers):

Louise Barr

Indea Cadman-Rivers

Sarah Feather

Jane Hartnell

Vicki Holland (speaker)

Samantha Loughran (speaker)

Becky Shaw

DCLG

East Sussex County Council

East Sussex County Council

Hastings Borough Council

East Sussex County Council

East Sussex County Council

East Sussex County Council

Apologies for absence:

Peter Archer

Cllr. Keith Glazier (Vice-Chair)

Kamini Sanghani

Keith Stevens

Cllr. Rob Blackman

Katy Bourne

Federation of Small Businesses

East Sussex County Council

Seetec

Sussex Associations of Local Councils

Lewes District Council

Police and Crime Commissioner

NOTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

Steve Mainwaring welcomed ESSP members, delegates, observers, guests and speakers to the meeting. Apologies were given and those attending on behalf of others were identified. Steve also thanked East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service for hosting ESSP at their headquarters.

2) Urgent items of business

None

3) Notes of the meeting held on 21 May 2015 and Matters Arising

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and actions confirmed as completed.

4) Demonstration from the East Sussex Community Information Service (ESCIS) – Vicki Holland and Sam Loughran

Steve introduced Vicki Holland and Sam Loughran to speak about ESCIS and reminded partners of the increasing importance of understanding available services (allowing for greater community resilience) and how to access both services and key information.

The East Sussex Community Information Service (ESCIS) is an online database of local and community information, which can be found at www.escis.org.uk. ESCIS holds information about approximately 7500 organisations based in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove which cover information and advice; voluntary welfare and health; support groups; clubs and societies etc. The database can be easily searched either by particular field or geographic area.

There is the capability to include an ESCIS widget (search box) on your organisation's website. Partners are also able to support the promotion of the service by advertising ESCIS in their respective publications. Should you wish to advertise your organisation, install the search box, publicise the service or have any questions or feedback, please contact Vicki Holland (Vicki.Holland@eastsussex.gov.uk) or Samantha Loughran (Samantha.Loughran@eastsussex.gov.uk).

Steve thanked Vicki and Sam for a very informative talk.

ACTION: Partners to contact Vicki Holland (Vicki.Holland@eastsussex.gov.uk) or Samantha Loughran (Samantha.Loughran@eastsussex.gov.uk) regarding ESCIS.

5) The future of public services (Discussion) – All

As an outcome of the ESSP review, it was agreed that there is positive value in the partnership and members see ESSP as a forum to discuss the issues, relationships between partners but also how to mitigate the challenges being faced within the public sector due to the current financial challenges.

The purpose of the discussion was to understand the current national, financial trend and context, the future of Public Services and how partners can work together.

Becky Shaw provided an introduction to the debate and discussed challenges that faced the public sector and East Sussex as a county. Becky discussed the recent downward trend of public expenditure and the resultant need to manage gaps and expectations. It was agreed that this presentation would be shared with the ESSP.

Becky also discussed the importance of new forms of working and cited the 3SC devolution bid between East Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and West Sussex County Council as an example.

Chief Superintendent Neil Honnor gave a presentation on The Sussex Local Policing Model. Sussex Police will be a smaller organisation with 700 fewer officers and staff (500 police officers and 200 staff) delivering local policing over the next five years. It is thought that a further 300 posts elsewhere in the force will go in a bid to save a further £56 million by 2020.

Neil outlined some key changes for the future and how policing districts will be combined for effective command, consistency and partnership working.

The need for a joined up approach for PR/consultation was emphasised to mitigate the public's concerns/miscommunications about changes and mediate the impact.

Partners were then asked to contribute and share their responses to the following questions, as circulated with the agenda:

- What are the key things that you've learnt that we need to apply?
- What are the key areas where residents will see a difference?
- What does this mean for partnerships and how we work together to make the best use of reduced resources?

Environment Agency –

Michael Turner commented on the continued reducing number of employees, both locally and nationally, within the Environment Agency. Although there is to be continued national and local frontline services, a regional tier has been removed. The Environment Agency now has a closer working relationship with DEFRA; with shared back-office functions whilst maintaining a high-quality service. Some back-office services have been out sourced to a private shared service provider.

A major funding review is taking place within Defra which will shape the Environment Agency's services over the foreseeable future, particularly around flood defence investment, enforcement, environmental improvements to rivers and biodiversity, engagement with communities around nuisance from sites with environmental permits, enforcement and incident response.

The Environment Agency continues to focus on its major incident response service. It shall not be attending minor incidents, which are often those that cause nuisance within communities and escalation to councillors. It was acknowledged that managing expectations will be important across the board so issues are not fruitlessly escalated.

The Environment Agency will continue to rely on partners to support improvements in the quality of rivers and bathing waters to meet legal standards.

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) –

Becky highlighted areas that ESCC was focusing on to make efficiencies and also acknowledged the need for partners to realise that there's going to be gaps. The newly-elected, Conservative MPs in county are both cohesive and committed to East Sussex and

there was a discussion about how the ESSP could utilise the political voice of MPs to encourage them to understand the impact of the changes on the ground.

It was agreed that relevant reports concerning plans to accommodate the changes to public services would be circulated to members.

Steve asked partners to provide brief documents specifying their organisation's stance on the above questions. This would then help in setting ESSP's agenda as a partnership, allowing us to begin to understand strategic commonalities amongst public sector.

ACTION: Introductory presentation to be sent out with the minutes.

ACTION: Partners to provide brief documents specifying their organisation's stance on the above questions.

6) Any other business

Meetings are being held with all East Sussex Councils to talk about a co-ordinated response to the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 7 September stating that the UK will accept up to 20,000 refugees from Syria over the next five years.

7) Future meetings:

- 8 December, East Sussex Assembly, Hardwick Suite, International Lawn Tennis Centre

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS –	
Item	Action
4	Partners to contact Vicki Holland (Vicki.Holland@eastsussex.gov.uk) or Samantha Loughran (Samantha.Loughran@eastsussex.gov.uk) regarding ESCIS.
5	Introductory presentation to be sent out with the minutes.
5	Partners to provide brief documents specifying their organisation's stance on the above questions.