

Investing in East Sussex - a joint strategy for housing delivery

Notes on the joint partnership event held on Tuesday 25 May 2010
at Battle Memorial Hall, Battle, East Sussex

Programme & Presentations

Following the election and in the aftermath of the recession, with expected cuts in public expenditure and increasing emphasis on efficiency, this event aimed to offer partners the opportunity to rethink housing delivery and consider joint approaches across East Sussex. Over 60 people from a range of organisations attended including housing associations, developers, local authorities, parish councils and voluntary organisations.

Please follow the hyperlinks below which lead to the full documentation on the East Sussex Strategic Partnership website.

Programme

<u>Setting the Scene</u>	Graham Maunders
<u>Local Investment Plan (LIP)</u>	Andrew Palmer, Hastings Borough Council
<u>The Single Conversation</u>	Bruce Voss, Homes and Communities Agency
<u>Rural best practice</u>	Tom Warder, Action in rural Sussex
<u>Rent to Buy Home Ownership</u>	Andrew Brader, Orbit Homes

Feedback

Feedback - Investing in East Sussex Event 25 May 2010

	1	2	3	4	5	Average
1 poor - 5 excellent						
Introduction			3	19	5	4
Presentations	1	1	2	6	6	4-5
Single conversation		3	9	11	6	4
LIP	1	1	6	12	7	4
Partnership working	1		6	8	11	5
Open Debate		1	8	14	3	4
Workshops		2	6	12	8	4
Plenary		2	7	12	3	4
Venue			11	11	8	4
Food			8	13	9	4
Attend in future		1	5	7	17	5

Comments from feedback sheets

More East Sussex meetings would be a benefit

All parties with assets & sites (inc non housing) need to meet inc planners to map opportunities inc change of use - pre LIP v 2

The LSP should take lead in bringing public land forward & engaging with non LA public landowners eg defence, water, health etc & working towards a shared vision with these organisations that will enable housing to be co-located with other provision for the benefit of the community
Continue to talk up the benefits of good quality homes & neighbourhoods on health & well-being, education attainment, crime prevention, regeneration, economic development etc so that there is a broad understanding & sign up to improving the existing housing stock across all tenures & building new affordable homes across the county.
If the new Govt scraps housing targets we need to agree our own targets that are based on local need & signed up by all partners.
Morning presentations needed to be more interactive to raise energy levels
Need to find a format to engage elected Members as well
Very valuable to get all the players together with focus
Would be interesting to rerun once the new govt plans crystallise
Timing of event unfortunate - govt announcements same day
These sort of events just become talking shops
Planners Officers should have attended
Planners Officers & Planning Committees should have attended
Future events should look at how we can influence the future rather than here & now
Great networking event
Useful to have HCA reps there
Interesting group discussions due to mix LAs & RSLs
Brighton Uni hold a wealth of housing, socio-economic data we could access
Future Topics
Local standards
Re-run when new Govt policies/targets are clear
Venue
Lack of windows
Too dark
Too noisy due to lack of carpet - so hard to hear speakers & workshops
Location not sustainable - a town with better public transport links

Other comments from participants

- A useful opportunity to network with a number of people
- A useful presentation on rural affordable housing and HomeBuy but little that I had not heard before - a refresh is always useful
- Session about the Single Conversation, the HCA and the LIP was informative, in that it reaffirmed what I thought my understanding was, where it all fits in and I can now also write a bit about it in LTP3, which is a good thing
- The developer perspective session later on in the morning and then the workshops were not that relevant to me as they were more focused on the detailed delivery aspects
- The workshop on use of public land identified a need to get asset owners around the table to talk about their potential development opportunities. This includes Housing Associations as well as all the different public landowners. There can be significant opportunities if we look at land availability in a joined up way. GIS systems should allow us to see this and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments are very much intended to capture all potential development sites. However, there may be value in looking at these, what they tell us and

thinking about other sites - non-residential and/or non public owned - to see if we can achieve more by working together. Planners were saying that if we are clear about our aspirations and are working with them in a joined up way, there can be flexibility in things like planning use class to deliver our priorities.

- It may be useful to talk to housing authorities about any plans they may have for LA new build (if this programme continues).
- This was my first touch with the LIP process. For me, therefore, the morning provided a useful context, although it also highlighted uncertainty of the new government's intentions/priorities. As the current version of the LIP is all short term delivery, there was very little I could contribute and little of direct relevance to my area of work. That said, it was pleasing to hear the HCA were committed to combating climate change and seemingly keener on improving design and sustainability standards than on RSL/developer concerns about whether this was the right time given the cost implications. This is reassuring, but all must ensure climate change mitigation and adaptation is integrated in schemes and actions. A major scheme (in Chichester) dealing with this was discussed briefly and may be a useful exemplar.
- It was an interesting event although, unfortunately, I could not stay for the whole day. In terms of my area of work it was encouraging that the Local Investment Plan is being developed with reference to the Economic Development Strategy and I was pleased that it was clearly stated that the LIP would take account of the new Strategy so that there are synergies between the two. With the focus, inevitably, on housing we will need to ensure that there actually *are* linkages in practice, not just on paper. Houses mean people; people need jobs. The job density in the county is already low and we know that currently there are not enough jobs to "soak up" those who are currently workless (there is a shortfall of about 8,500 jobs, actually a conservative estimate ...). Also of concern is that the event highlighted uncertainty of the new government's intentions/priorities. So for me, the resulting action is the need to continue to support the development of the LDFs and to ensure that the need for job development, as well as housing development, remains a priority.
- Well attended and a good mix of people from local authorities, RSLs and a handful of developers. There were very few Members present which was disappointing but perhaps not many were invited which might explain this.
- The presentations helped set the single conversation and local investment plan in context of the current housing and regeneration agenda.... and the emerging impact of Government emergency budget reductions (if only to confirm things are clear as mud but guaranteed to prove challenging!). We were told that the presentations will be posted on the ESSP website so this is something worth chasing, as colleagues unable to attend should find them worth a look.
- I was able to stay for the whole day and the workshops I attended stimulated useful discussion. I attended the interesting one about rural housing and a less interesting one about an s.106 project team approach in Thanet.
- There were no earth shattering conclusions... obvious worries about impact of less Government resources on housing standards, especially environmental/eco... a need to be innovative and creative to address the future housing and regeneration challenges... with recognition that we're all in this together and strong partnerships are key to weathering the storm and moving forward.
- Lack of member attendance - with issues arising about planning committees and barriers to rural developments it is difficult to see how progress can be made without the right people round the table
- Overall a positive and well organised event

Outcomes

Negotiation of the Local Investment Programme for East Sussex with the Homes and Communities Agency was completed and agreed at the East Sussex Joint Chief Executives' and Leaders' meeting in July 2010 in line with the timetable set. Following some technical issues, the final LIP is due to be published on partner websites in October 2010.

The East Sussex Chief Housing Officer Group is taking the work forward and continuing the dialogue with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Wealden Local Strategic Partnership
c/o Policy & Review
Wealden District Council
Vicarage Lane
Hailsham BN27 2AX

On behalf of all East Sussex Local Strategic Partnerships
Wealden LSP invites you to a special event:

Homes for East Sussex - a joint strategy for delivery

9:30am - 3:30pm Tuesday 25 May 2010

Battle Memorial Hall, Battle, East Sussex

Building homes for the future, and building the infrastructure to support them, are key priorities across East Sussex. All six Local Strategic Partnerships are working to bring together partners from public, private and voluntary sectors, seeking ways to improve delivery of housing across East Sussex.

Following on from the election and in the aftermath of the recession, with expected cuts in public expenditure and increasing emphasis on efficiency, there is a need to rethink housing delivery and develop a joint approach setting out detailed investment plans and a clear strategy across East Sussex as a whole.

This invitation-only event will focus on:

- Life after May 6
- Delivery in a recession
- National & Local Best Practice examples in the current economic climate

We'll have a knowledgeable housing and regeneration professional to facilitate the day along with invitees chosen for their expertise - making sure we bring practical experience to bear to help shape the future. We'll look at financial investment, the role of the Homes and Communities Agency, the work to develop a county-wide approach, plus we will have interactive sessions looking at best practice examples.

All in all an event not to be missed.

Coffee will be available from 9:30 am, lunch is provided, and we aim to finish by 3:30 pm.

Numbers are limited so please RSVP to: Judith Leonard - judith.leonard@wealden.gov.uk tel: 01323 443391 by 14 May 2010