

IN ATTENDANCE

ESSP Members present:

Cllr. Kim Forward (on behalf of Cllr. Birch)
Cllr. Keith Glazier (Vice Chair)
Kim Goodall (speaker)
John Hodges
Jeremy Leggett
Steve Manwaring
Cllr. Carl Maynard
Keith Stevens (Chair)
Michael Turner
Gary Walsh

Hastings Borough Council
East Sussex County Council
Jobcentre Plus
Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce
Action in Rural Sussex
SpeakUp Representative
Rother District Council
Sussex Associations of Local Councils
Environment Agency
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Also in attendance (official observers):

Shabana Bayjou
Indea Cadman-Rivers
Gill Cameron-Waller (on behalf of Charles Lant)
Simone Cuthbert (speaker)
Sarah Feather
Paula Gorvett (speaker)
Becky Shaw

Hastings Borough Council
East Sussex County Council
Wealden District Council
SPACES
East Sussex County Council
East Sussex County Council
East Sussex County Council

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Jeremy Birch
Katy Bourne
Chris Dowling
Neil Honor
Charles Lant
Andrea Saunders

Ashley Scarff

Hastings Borough Council
Police and Crime Commissioner Cllr.
East Sussex County Council
Sussex Police
Wealden District Council
Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community
Rehabilitation Company
High Weald Lewes Havens CCG

NOTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

Keith Stevens welcomed ESSP members, delegates, observers, guests and speakers to the first meeting of 2015. Apologies were given and those attending on behalf of others were identified. Keith also thanked Hastings Borough Council for hosting ESSP at Hastings Town Hall.

2) Urgent items of business

None

3) Notes of the meeting held on 30 October 2014 and Matters Arising

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

4) Better Together – Paula Gorvett, East Sussex County Council

Paula Govertt provided information about East Sussex Better Together, a formal programme involving all of the East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and East Sussex County Council. Paula explained how the programme will ensure a common approach within East Sussex to allow for agreement on how transformation will be managed. This will allow for the development of services which reflect the individual characteristics of each CCG area and the requirements of their respective Boards.

Paula acknowledged the difficult task ahead with Health and social care systems across the country facing significant challenges. The growing population, particularly in the over 65s, the increasing number of people living with long term conditions, advances in medical technology and rising patient and public expectations will make it difficult to meet demand within the resources we expect to receive and with the way services are currently provided.

Paula confirmed that money (£42 million) has been set aside to assist with maintaining services whilst the transition takes place to new service delivery. Paula stressed that changes that take place will be from a joined-up approach, with health care professionals, public, voluntary and private sector working together.

In answer to questions, Paula acknowledged the ambitious nature of the programme, and reassured the members that telehealth and telecare were important in the project.

5) Universal Credit – Kim Goodall, Department for Work and Pensions

Kim Goodall delivered a presentation regarding Universal Credit and benefit reform. Universal Credit will replace six main working age benefits with one simple payment which is paid monthly. This single payment is paid to a household rather than an individual, which includes housing costs and is paid monthly in arrears.

Kim acknowledged the differences between existing benefit provision and the new system. There are no limits to the number of hours a person can work a week if they receive Universal Credit. The payment will reduce gradually as a person earns more and they won't lose all benefits at once if they're on a low income.

Earnings are handled by HMRC using PAYE in real time information which reduces the burden of reporting for employers. The new system provides the Department for Work and Pensions with the information to adjust the amount of Universal Credit payment any employed claimant receives.

Housing Benefits will be included within the Universal Credit payment and the claimant will then pay the landlord themselves. Should budgeting be an issue, personal budgeting support will be offered.

In response to some concerns, Kim clarified that there will also be the option to make rent payments direct to the landlord if a claimant reaches a certain level of rent arrears or is already in arrears as it was acknowledged the shift to Universal Credit will only exacerbate this issue. If it is a private landlord, there will be no data share agreement, like there will be with social landlords; however, the claimant can request a direct payment to the landlord.

Universal Credit will initially be rolled out in Hastings and Rother; this rollout will begin in April this year.

6) SPACES – Simone Cuthbert, SPACES

Simone Cuthbert provided an update on the status of the Strategic Property Asset Collaboration in East Sussex (SPACES) Programme to date specifically regarding delivery of projects and programme development.

SPACES has been running since 2011 and is a public and third sector partnership. This partnership identifies ways of co-locating and collaborating to achieve a more cost effective estate asset base. The benefits expected include a reduction in the running cost of property, realisation of capital receipts, increased partnership working and co-location of related services.

Nineteen projects have now been delivered by the SPACES Programme. The benefits realised to date are in excess of £5 million with a further £10.8 million identified. These values are only what have been calculated to date and Simone acknowledged that many of the projects and work streams being developed have not yet been measured. Many other benefits have also been realised including co-location of related services and attracting investment.

SPACES will remain standing item on the agenda for information to allow members to be informed with progress.

7) Information items (not for discussion)

Update papers were circulated for information about the following items:

- Family Keywork – a verbal update will take place at the April meeting.

8) Nominations for Chairperson – Vice-Chair, Cllr. Glazier

Vice-Chair of ESSP, Cllr. Keith Glazier, asked members if there are any nominations for candidates to be elected as ESSP Chair. Elections will be held at the 21 May 2015 ESSP meeting; the new Chair will take up their post from the September 2015 ESSP meeting.

Any nominees must submit their intention as an email to the ESSP inbox (essp@eastsussex.gov.uk). The deadline for nominations is 10am, Tuesday 12 May 2015.

Action: Nominees for ESSP Chairperson to submit their intention as an email to the ESSP inbox (essp@eastsussex.gov.uk) by 10am, Tuesday 12 May 2015.

8) Any Other Business

Jeremy Leggett notified the ESSP of the cancellation of a planned priority shift by DEFRA of funding from rural communities.

Jeremy also notified the ESSP of a report by the environment, food and rural affairs select committee has claimed that broadband should be considered a 'fundamental right.'

John Hodges noted that the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road has been commended following an inspection by the Considerate Constructors Scheme, an independent construction body. John praised everyone who had been involved with the project.

9) Future meetings:

- 21 May, Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes
Please note that the date for the next ESSP Board meeting has been changed.
- 8 September, East Sussex Assembly, Gold Room, Winter Garden, Eastbourne
- 8 December, Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes

All meetings to take place at 10am.

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS –	
Item	Action
8	Nominees for ESSP Chairperson to submit their intention as an email to the ESSP inbox (essp@eastsussex.gov.uk) by Tuesday 12 May 2015.