



**East Sussex Assembly Conference 2011  
3 November 2011, Winter Garden, Eastbourne**

**CONFERENCE REPORT – January 2012**

**BACKGROUND:**

The East Sussex Assembly meets once a year to receive a report on the East Sussex Strategic Partnership's (ESSP) activities and achievements during the previous year and to be involved in identifying and agreeing future priorities that ESSP and wider partners should focus on. Over 40 delegates attended from partner organisations across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

The Assembly 2011 was about 1) updating Assembly members on the progress of the priorities identified at the Assembly in 2010; 2) providing The Picture in East Sussex (with a focus on national context and ESSP achievements since the Sustainable Communities Strategy was developed, and what we can expect for the future of East Sussex); 3) highlighting progress and challenges of the Pride of Place Themes with a roundtable discussion on areas for future focus; and 4) a seminar on funding to share information on planning, writing and presenting successful partnership bids for external funding.

**ASSEMBLY ITEMS:**

**1) Priorities**

Speakers provided progress updates on the three priority areas identified at the Assembly 2010 as key issues that would benefit from focus from the ESSP. Further updates on these activities will be provided at the ESSP meeting in January 2011.

Families with Multiple Problems

Alison Jeffery (East Sussex County Council) provided the update. The working group aims to support families with multiple problems more effectively, with the priority to aim for better outcomes for these families, with another potential outcome being lower costs to the community as a whole.

Since July 2011, discussions with partners have taken place which led to the establishment of the project. Alison highlighted the complexities of the project, and the importance of understanding what is and what is not working in East Sussex, and getting support from a range of services. In-depth research was carried out during the autumn. Discussion will

follow to build consensus around a new approach to families with multiple problems which will be piloted from April 2012.

### Communications and Engagement

Bethan Hampson (East Sussex County Council) provided the update. The ESSP website re-launch and a questionnaire on ESSP communications have been key areas of progress.

The new website is laid out around the themes to make it easy to navigate. It has helped to streamline the administration of communications, and has provided opportunities for increased engagement, for example in relation to NHS Reforms activity.

The ESSP communications questionnaire was completed by over 80 partners from the ESSP, the Assembly and those who receive information and Newsletters. The feedback gained has guided work on two key projects:

- A method allowing users to subscribe to receiving the type of information that they are interested in, and the frequency of receiving it; and
- A members' only forum to allow for discussion/ circulation of items outside of meetings.

### Strategic Property Asset Collaboration in East Sussex (SPACES)

Robin Smith (Chair of ESSP, Sussex Police) provided the update. The SPACES group is made up of organisations from across the public and voluntary and community sectors, many of which are Assembly members. So far, value of property ownership across the eight organisations exceeds £960m with lease and other running costs totalling £56.35m a year.

SPACES has been included in the Department for Communities and Local Government's Capital and Asset Pathfinder Programme, and a member of SPACES met with Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in October 2011. The Government sees this approach as a key tool to drive savings and service improvement. Partners have worked to identify a direction of travel and early opportunities with the aim to submit business cases by December 2011 and a strategic plan by March 2012. Robin highlighted the need for commitment 'at the top' from all partner organisations to drive down the total size and cost of the public estate in East Sussex.

## **2) The Picture in East Sussex**

Robin Smith and Becky Shaw (East Sussex County Council) presented on The Picture in East Sussex. Using an interactive activity, they encouraged the Assembly to look back to when the Sustainable Community Strategy was developed (2008) and think about how the national and local context has changed. Key ESSP achievements spanning from 2008-2011 were highlighted. Robin and Becky then asked the Assembly to think about emerging issues and what they do and don't know about the future for East Sussex. They highlighted that although there will be challenges, the past achievements demonstrate the resilience of the Assembly organisations and the role that collaboration will continue to play in East Sussex.

### **3) Update on Pride of Place: Round table discussion**

In a Round Table discussion format, the Assembly were asked to look at progress reported on a Pride of Place Theme(s). The groups were asked:

- Do you think that the actions are still relevant, and do you agree with proposed amendments?
- Can you recognise that progress has been made?
- Are there any additional areas for action/ focus?

The tables attached as Appendix 1 summarise the discussion around each theme, highlight the suggested areas for future focus and show any proposed changes to key tasks and actions in Pride of Place.

### **4) How to be successful when applying for funding in partnership**

Véronique Poutrel (East Sussex County Council) presented a seminar on applying for funding, outlining the services of the External Funding Team. This followed a request at the ESSP meeting in July 2011 for advice on funding, in particular bidding in partnership. The presentation covered advice on writing successful application, evidencing need and how to bid jointly for success.

As an outcome of this seminar, the External Funding team have been in discussion with a number of Assembly member organisations to work on bidding.

### **FEEDBACK:**

All delegates were provided with an event feedback form. The following results are based on the 14 forms returned. The results are set out in graphs as Appendix 2. The main points are:

- The majority of respondents felt that the event met expectations; the Assembly content was appropriate; timing and duration was appropriate; and pre event admin was sufficient.
- The item that most respondents found the most useful was the Update on Pride of Place round table discussion, followed by: the Priorities updates (the SPACES presentation highlighted as particularly useful); The Picture in East Sussex presentation; Networking; and the Funding seminar.
- The ideas suggested for next year's Assembly (set out in Appendix 2) include: more focus on the three Priorities; and focus on various reforms that will impact on the way Assembly organisations will work.

What we have learned:

- The majority of feedback was positive which indicates that the issues presented were of interest and appropriate. We will aim to continue this in 2012 by taking on board suggestions of topics for next year's Assembly.
- One group lacked clarity on the Round Table discussion and felt they didn't have enough handout information provided to make the most of the exercise. This will be avoided in the future by ensuring that all resources/ hand outs are clear and comprehensive and that exercises are facilitated.
- The respondents who selected the Funding seminar as least useful commented that they found it interesting; but they felt that as strategic members, they were not the

appropriate audience. In the future, pre event admin will go further to highlight where particular items may be more focused, and encourage the invitation of additional delegates where relevant.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The ESSP is recommended to:

1. Note the presentations and progress reported to the Assembly;
2. Note the feedback and suggestions for next year's Assembly; and
3. Agree actions and areas of future focus for the Pride of Place themes (set out in Appendix 1), resulting from the Round Table discussion exercise.

**Table 1** summarises the key points of discussion on each theme, and highlights the suggested areas for future focus and actions.

**Table 2** sets out the detail of proposed amendments to the Pride of Place document.

**Table 1**

Sustainable Community Strategy Theme	Round Table discussion
<p>Community</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure action in Pride of Place still relevant.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh action to reflect changes to Compact;</li> <li>• ESSP continue to scrutinise and inform the Compact; and</li> <li>• Compact to develop stronger links with parish and town councils, some work already underway.</li> </ul>
<p>Culture + Sport</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current culture/ sport/ leisure initiatives; and</li> <li>• 2012 Olympics.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to use ESCC Cultural Strategy; and</li> <li>• ESSP to receive an update on Olympics (January 2012).</li> </ul>
<p>Economy</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress of Economic Development Strategy; and</li> <li>• Progress recognised for both actions.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh action/result in Pride of Place to reflect changes in the national context; and</li> <li>• ESSP to receive updates on the progress and implementation of the Economic Development Strategy (April 2012).</li> </ul>
<p>Education+ Skills</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress of Adult Learning &amp; Skills Strategy;</li> <li>• Needs of older people in accessing information;</li> <li>• Support for those who have limited IT skills; and</li> <li>• How to prepare young people for further education/access to work.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESSP to receive updates on the progress and implementation of the Adult Learning &amp; Skills Strategy.</li> </ul>

<p>Environment</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress of the Environment Strategy;</li> <li>• Importance of Environment Strategy being linked to other strategies (e.g. Economic Development Strategy); and</li> <li>• Importance of clear messages about reducing climate change through awareness and campaigning.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh action in Pride of Place to reflect focus on the Environment Strategy;</li> <li>• Remove Climate Change action from Pride of Place (as the Climate Change Partnership Board is now encompassed within the Environment Strategy); and</li> <li>• ESSP to receive update on progress of Environment Strategy (April 2012).</li> </ul>
<p>Health</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current action does not fully reflect strategic priority.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review action in Pride of Place;</li> <li>• Consider how Health and Wellbeing Board will feed into ESSP; and</li> <li>• Consider how ESSP can support the 'Healthy Lifestyles' initiative.</li> </ul>
<p>Housing</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of local and national contexts on county-wide housing needs and related issues.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESSP to receive an update (January 2012).</li> </ul>
<p>Older People</p> 	<p>Cross cutting theme – discussions linked to other themes.</p>
<p>Safety</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress/ success of community safety initiatives;</li> <li>• Reduction in crime noted; and</li> <li>• Engagement with new Police Commissioner.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise task/ action/ results in Pride of Place to reflect the strategic priority more fully and take in to account the arrival of Police Commissioner; and</li> <li>• ESSP to receive an update on Police Commissioners (January 2012).</li> </ul>

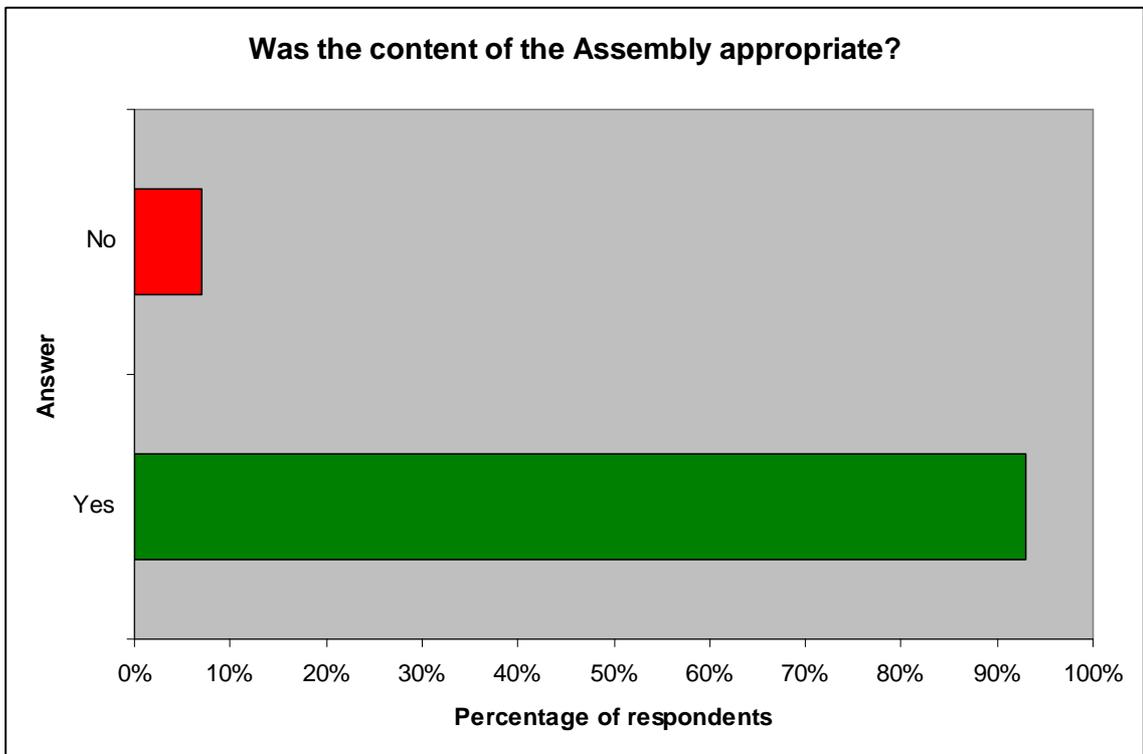
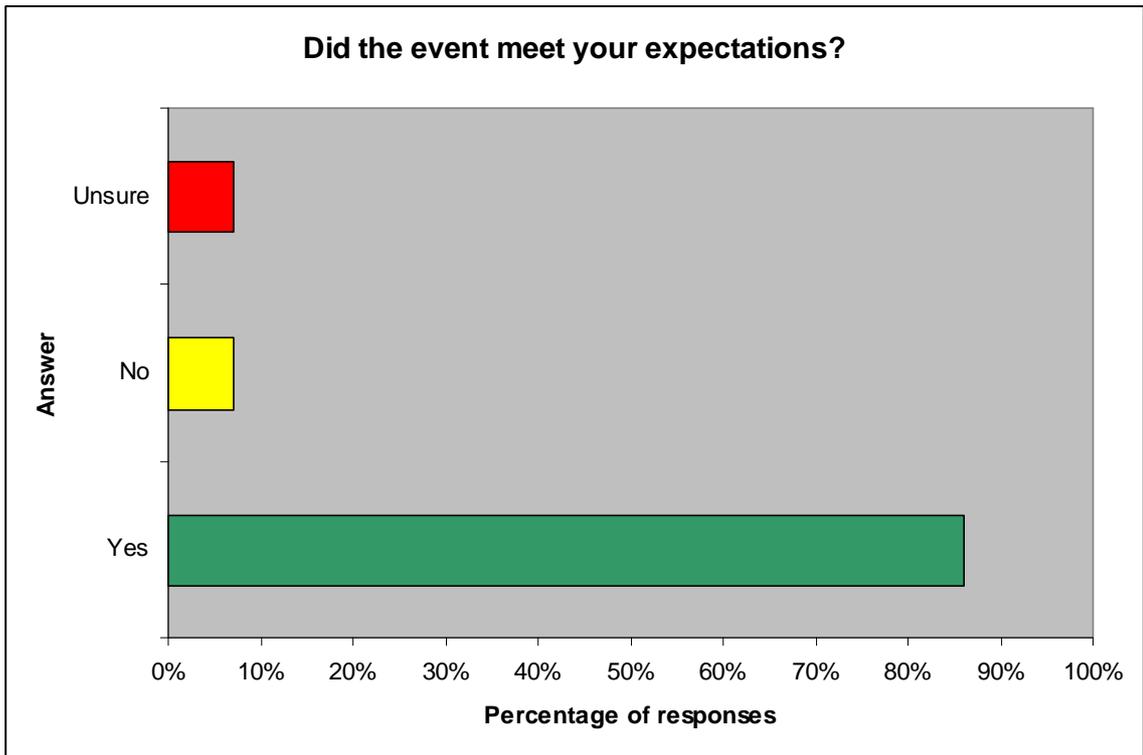
<p>Transport</p> 	<p><u>Points of discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress noted;</li> <li>• Marketing of public transport;</li> <li>• Link between economy and Transport, Access and Communications issues;</li> <li>• Younger People accessing work/ leisure post 16; and</li> <li>• Older people's concessionary fares.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas for future focus/ action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could ESSP Partners promote/ market public transport better? and</li> <li>• ESSP to receive progress updates on LTP3 (July 2012).</li> </ul>
<p>Younger people</p> 	<p>Cross cutting theme – discussions linked to other themes.</p>

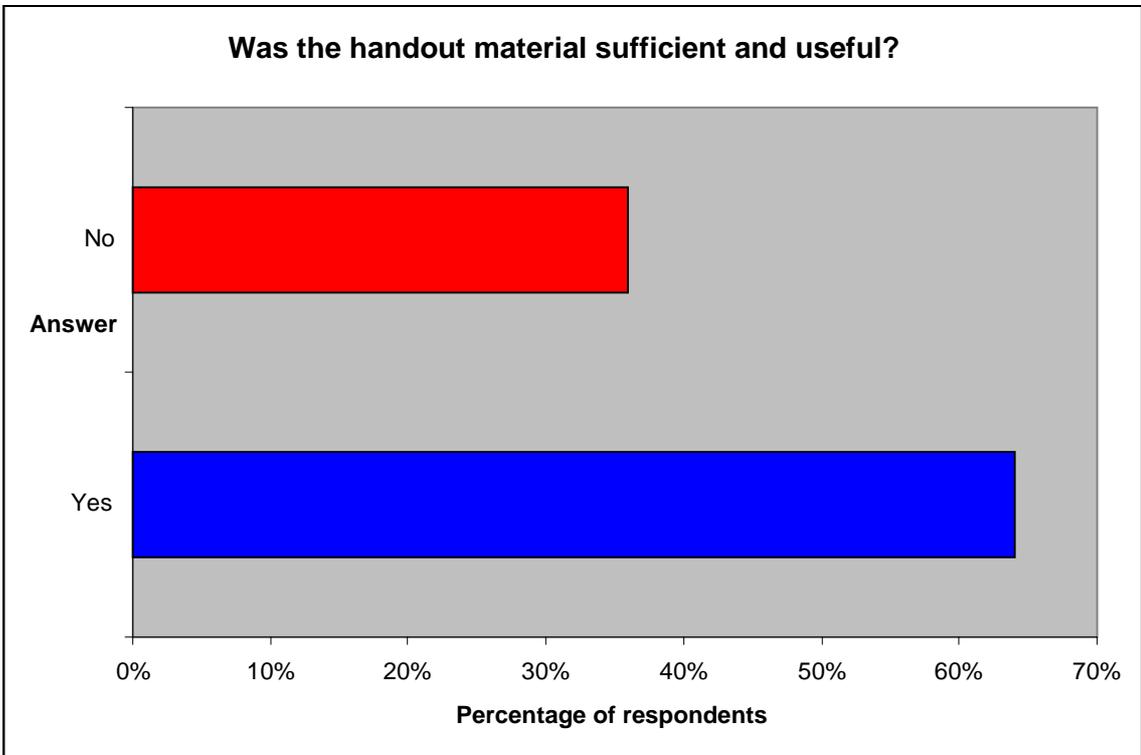
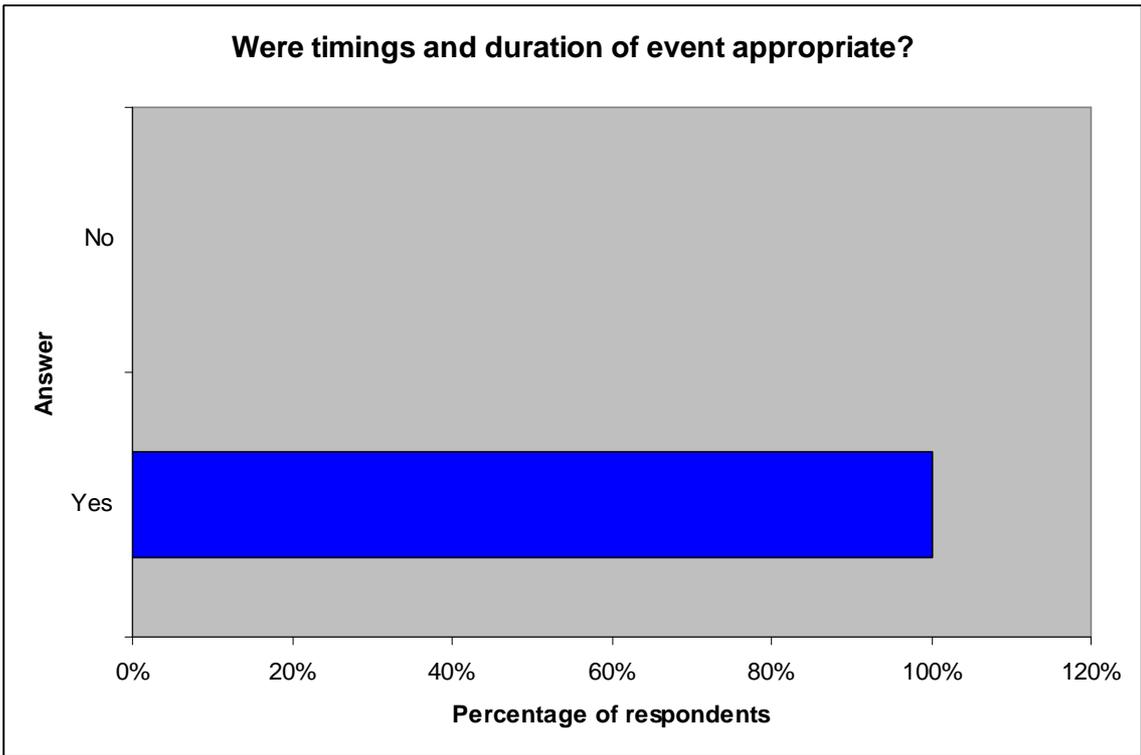
**Table 2**

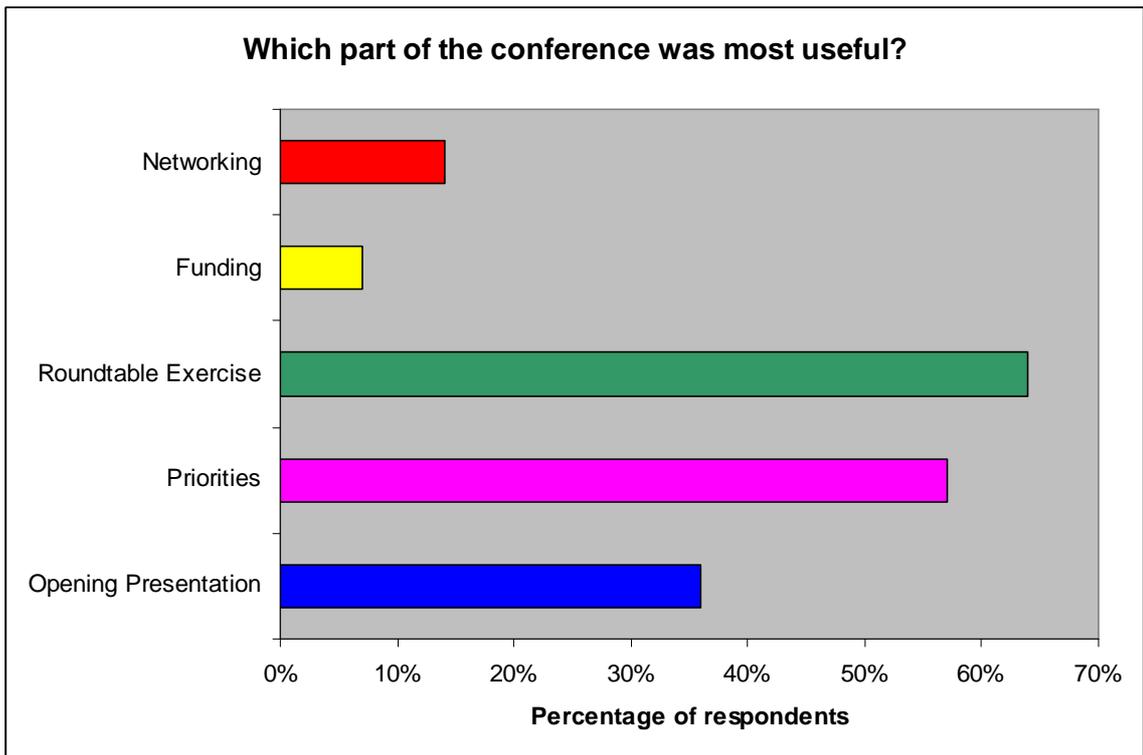
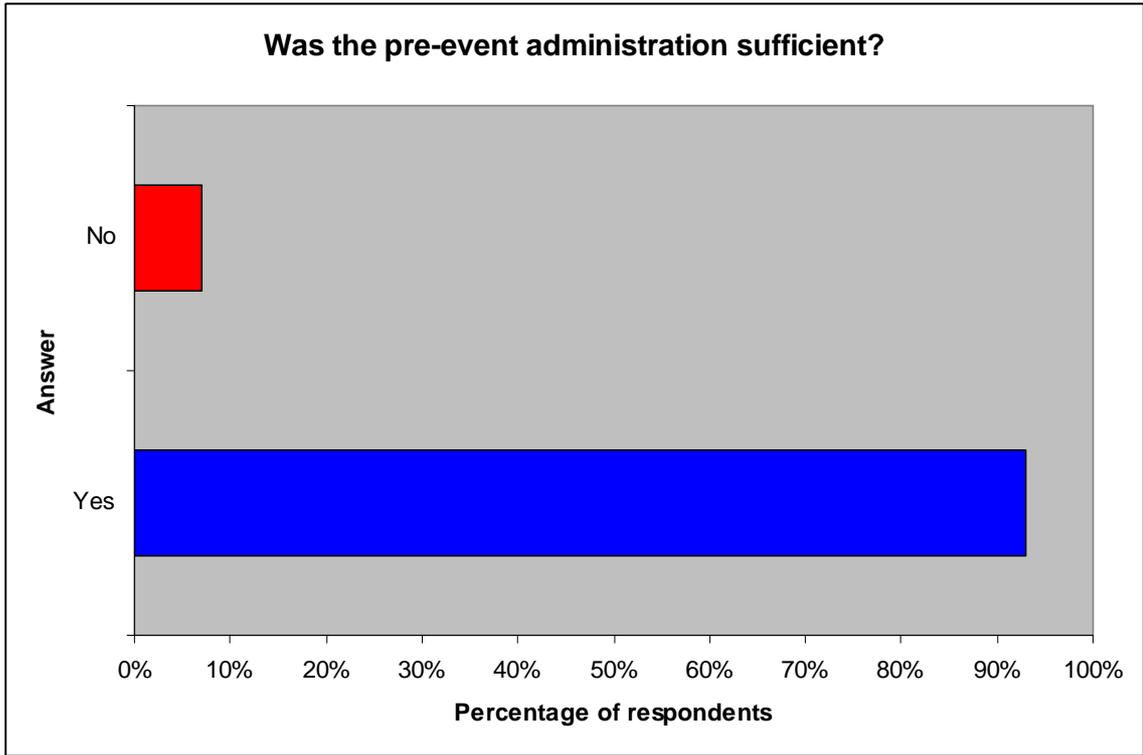
Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Theme	SCS Priority (Outcome)	Key Task	Action	Results
 <p><b>Current</b></p>	<p>By 2026: Effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership</p>	<p>Cross-cutting</p>	<p>12. Influence the development and implementation of the East Sussex Compact strategic plan</p> <p>13. Encourage partners to share knowledge to help understand our communities better</p>	<p>A range of impacts including principles written into organisations' Terms of Reference and Standing Orders; and Parish and Town councils signing up to the Compact</p> <p>Improved understanding of the needs and aspirations of our communities of place, interest and identity</p>
<p><b>Proposed</b></p>	<p>(As above)</p>	<p>(As above)</p>	<p>12. Influence the development and implementation of the East Sussex Compact</p> <p>13. (As above)</p>	<p>(As above)</p> <p>(As above)</p>
 <p><b>Current</b></p>	<p>By 2026: To narrow the gap within and between communities in the county, and between the county and the region, in order to develop a thriving, diverse and</p>	<p>Cross-cutting</p>	<p>1. Ensure there is an evidence based countywide response to the recession and related impacts so that, in the longer term, East Sussex can emerge in a stronger position</p>	<p>A coordinated response to the recession and related impacts (e.g. housing, health, community safety, worklessness, learning and skills, vulnerable people, homelessness, debt advice, fuel poverty) in the short and longer term.</p>

	sustainable economy where everyone can prosper.		2. Encourage partners to adopt sustainable procurement policies	Sustainable procurement policies adopted and implemented
<b>Proposed</b>	(As above)	(As above)	1. Post recession continue to monitor businesses for sustainability and growth, and the incidence of worklessness  2. (As above)	The provision of early warning if and where the economy is slowing again, and of potential impacts of the CSR  (As above)
 <b>Current</b>	By 2026: Our natural and built environment is protected and enhanced for current and future generations, and individuals and organizations are enabled to tackle and adapt to climate change	To develop high quality environments in our towns and villages  To ensure climate change is a strategic consideration of Local Development Frameworks and other planning policies	7. Encourage partners to work together to promote, protect and enhance the natural and built environment  8. Support the establishment of a new countywide partnership climate change board and work with it to take action on climate change adaptation	A countywide partnership environment strategy leading to cleaner and greener communities and improved access to open spaces  A countywide partnership climate change board to provide a long term strategic lead on climate change adaptation and related actions
<b>Proposed</b>	(As above)	To develop high quality environments in our towns and villages and countryside  (Task removed)	7. Encourage partners to work together to deliver the actions in the Environment Strategy  8. (Action removed)	(As above)  (Result removed)

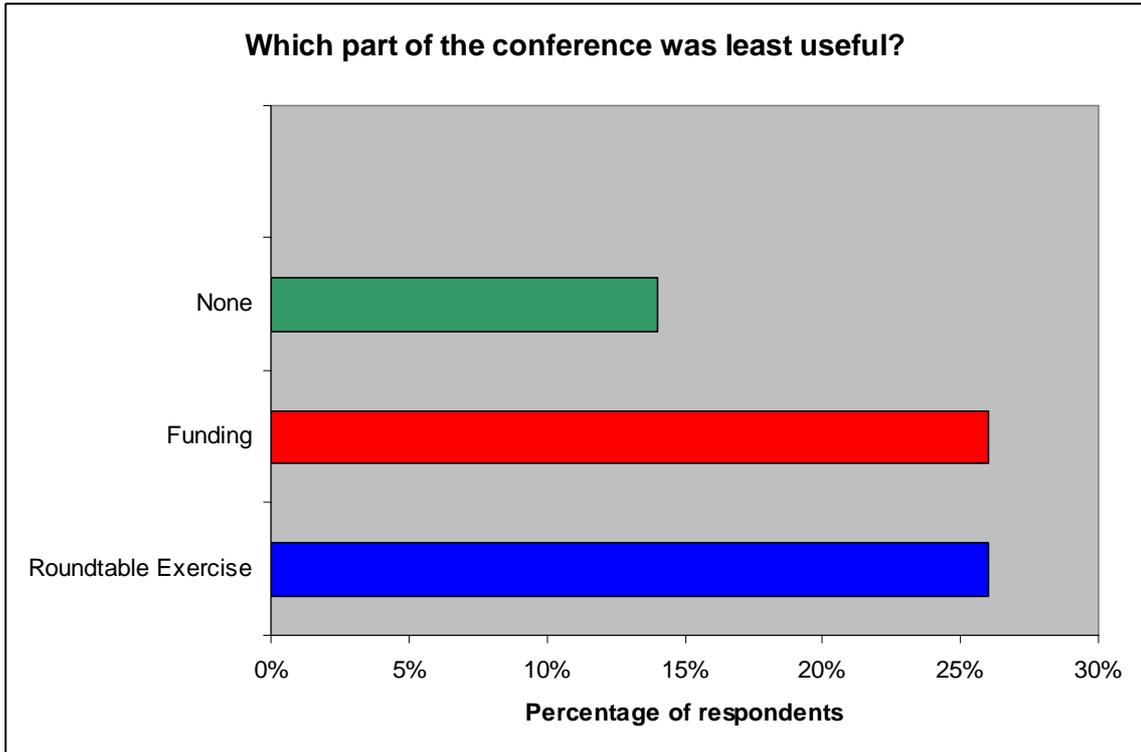
 <p><b>Safety</b></p> <p><b>Current</b></p>	<p>By 2026: Safe communities through targeted activity, particularly in high crime areas</p>	<p>To reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol misuse</p>	<p>11. Develop a strategic and cross-cutting approach to tackling the causes and effects of alcohol misuse.</p>	<p>A range of initiatives including campaigns, ensuring partners' strategies and plans address the impact of alcohol on their services, and increased support for alcohol treatment and intervention</p>
<p><b>Proposed</b></p>	<p>(As above)</p>	<p>Work in partnership and with the Police and Crime Commissioner to tackle the key community safety priorities for East Sussex</p>	<p>11. Develop a strategic and cross-cutting approach to tackling the key community safety priorities for East Sussex Community Safety Agreement</p>	<p>A range of community safety projects, campaigns and commissioned services. Ensuring strategies, plans and services address key community safety priorities for East Sussex</p>







\*Particular mention of SPACES presentation



<b>Ideas for next year's event</b>
Localism – one year on
Health, Wellbeing and the Economy
Social Marketing and the benefits it could bring
Police Commissioners and Community Safety
Creating employment and industry growth – focus on young people's access to employment
More time dedicated to the 'priorities'