

Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP)
Date: 18 April 2013
Title: Environment Strategy for East Sussex
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Purpose: To provide an update on progress in implementing the Environment Strategy

Recommendation:

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

1. note the progress made during 2012-3 in implementing the Environment Strategy for East Sussex, which was adopted by the ESSP in July 2011;
2. endorse the recommended action plan for 2013-14.

1. Background

- 1.1 The East Sussex Strategic Partnership adopted the partnership Environment Strategy for East Sussex at its meeting of 8 July 2011. Members requested that an annual report on progress in implementing the Environment Strategy be brought to the ESSP each year.
- 1.2 The environment is important both as an asset to protect and a resource to utilise and develop. How we manage the environment has implications for waste, energy, health and the economy as well as landscape and ecological sites. The environment is therefore inextricably linked to the future economic prosperity of the county and the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- 1.3 The Environment Strategy for East Sussex brings together the high level aims and objectives of a wide range of organisations into one shared, long-term strategic environmental plan for the county. It is helping to ensure that partners work together in the current tough financial climate to identify the county's strategic environmental assets, the most serious challenges that they face and the opportunities that they present over the next 15 years, and the priorities required for these to be addressed.

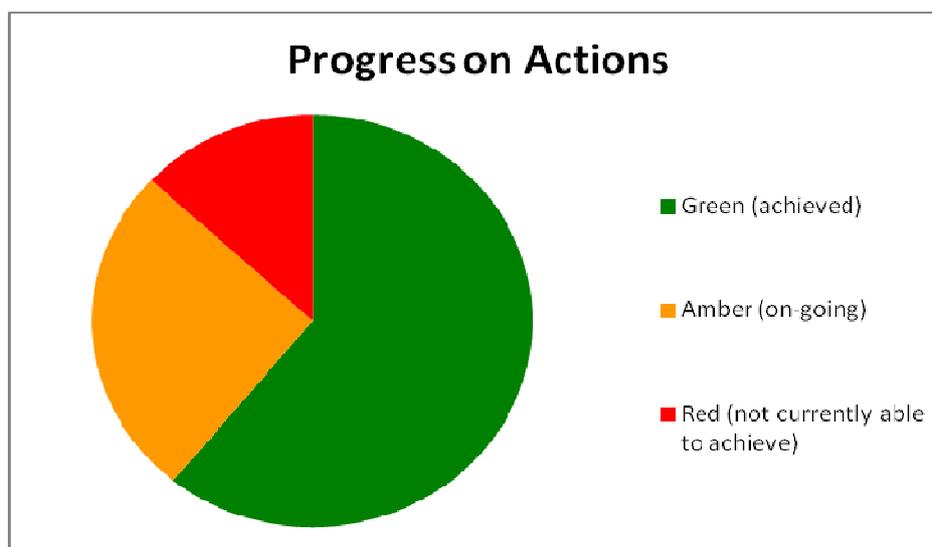
2. Implementation of the Environment Strategy

- 2.1 The organisations that developed the Environment Strategy have set up the Environment Strategy Group (ESG) to oversee the delivery of the Environment Strategy, with working groups covering the key issues (eg. waste and transport). This report has been prepared by the ESG.
- 2.2 Appendix A to this report provides a summary table of progress during 2012-13 in delivering the Environment Strategy actions agreed by the ESSP last year. The key points to note are that:
 - a) the majority (57%) of actions have been delivered (green);
 - b) 30% of actions are still on-going (amber). These have been carried forward into the action plan for 2013-14;

c) 13% of actions will not be delivered (red), either because of a lack of government guidance, a lack of resources available to make progress, or because the original action has not proven to be practicable to achieve;

d) the data to assess measurable change during 2012-13, for instance on transport and CO2 in East Sussex, will only be available at the end of the financial year, therefore assessing the outcome of the actions implemented in 2012-13 will be done during April-July 2013.

Figure 1: summary of progress during 2012-13.



2.3 Appendix B sets out the proposed Environment Strategy action plan for 2013-14. In summary:

- a) The working groups have completed the tasks identified in the last 2 reports to ESSP, namely reviewing and updating actions, for instance ensuring they are SMARTer, where possible;
- b) The number of actions has been reduced, to help focus reduced resources on key actions;
- c) The Environment Strategy Group will monitor progress against the targets regularly, and will provide the ESSP in April 2014 with:
 - a. a progress report on delivery of the 2013-14 action plan;
 - b. a proposed action plan for 2014-15;
 - c. analysis of the key trends, to determine whether the actions are beginning to deliver the long term aims and objectives of the Environment Strategy.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

- Notes the progress made during 2012-13;
- Endorses the action plan for 2013-14.

Appendix A – Summary table of progress during 2012-13

Appendix B - Proposed Environment Strategy action plan for 2013-14.