

Agenda Item 6

Appendix 2a

## **East Sussex Research and Engagement Network (REN)**

### **Terms of Reference**

*Research, Engage, Consult & Network...*

#### **Purpose**

The Research and Engagement Network (REN) will:

- promote and develop networking and information sharing amongst members;
- identify opportunities for sharing and developing joint research, engagement, and consultation activities;
- explore and discuss ways of continually improving methods of engagement, and consultation;
- work to develop a shared understanding of best practice in research, engagement, and consultation activities;
- assist in the implementation and embedding of best practice in member organisations; and
- promote the East Sussex Compact principles of consultation and engagement.

#### **Membership**

The network is open to public sector organisations, and voluntary sector organisations actively involved in research, engagement and consultation activities across Sussex. Organisational representation on the partnership should be from officers responsible for, or lead on consultation, research and engagement. Organisational representatives will be able to attend events and access resources at a level that suits their requirements.

It is expected that membership will be made up of representatives from the following organisations:

Sussex Police Authority  
Sussex Police  
East Sussex County Council  
Eastbourne Borough Council  
Hastings Borough Council  
Lewes District Council  
Rother District Council  
Wealden District Council  
Brighton & Hove City Council  
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service  
NHS Trusts  
SpeakUp (County-wide Voluntary and Community Sector Forum)  
Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC)

This list is by no means inclusive and members are encouraged to invite any new partners that may add value or benefit from the network.

### **Reporting and administration**

The network will be chaired by Sussex Police Authority until September 2011, at which time another chairperson will be elected. Administrative support for the network will also be provided by the Police Authority, which will need to be reviewed at future meetings dependent on resource capacity. It is anticipated that network members will be supportive of the value of the network and be able to provide resources where necessary in the future as required.

Meetings will be quarterly, including learning workshops and information sharing opportunities. Updates and information will be circulated to the network when necessary.

Regular progress reports will be forwarded to the East Sussex Strategic Partnership for information.