

Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP)
Date: May 2015
Title: Environment Strategy for East Sussex
Author: Michael Turner, Environment Agency
Purpose: To provide an update on progress in implementing the Environment Strategy in 2014-15 & seek agreement to the action plan for 2015-16

Recommendation:

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

1. note the progress made during 2014-15 in implementing the Environment Strategy;
2. endorse the recommended action plan for 2015-16.

1. Background

1.1 The East Sussex Strategic Partnership adopted the partnership Environment Strategy for East Sussex in 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. Therefore, protecting and improving the environmental asset base of the county is essential to supporting the 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 deliver sustained long term activity. This is being achieved by identifying the county's strategic environmental assets, assessing the most serious challenges that they face and the opportunities that they present over the next 14 years, and acting on 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 2014-15 in delivering the Environment Strategy actions agreed by the ESSP last year. The key points to note are that:

- a) the majority (78%) of actions have been delivered (green);
- b) 17% of actions are on-going (amber). These have been carried forward into the action plan for 2015-16;

c) 5% of actions have not been delivered (red), either because of a lack of resources available to make progress, or because the original action has not proven to be practicable to achieve.

2.3 Appendix B sets out the proposed Environment Strategy action plan for 2015-16. The plan mostly comprises activities that build on the previous action plans, because progress in most areas depends on sustained long-term activity.

2.4 Key points to highlight from the action plans include:

- 1) The extensive number of partners and partnerships involved in working to deliver the objectives of the Environment Strategy;
- 2) The significant investment being made in areas that also bring economic and health benefits (eg. transport and healthy lifestyles, in support of the East Sussex Economic Development Strategy and the Public Health Outcomes Framework);
- 3) The slower progress that is being made in areas that do not have a local statutory framework (eg. climate change and food).

2.5 The Environment Strategy Group will report to the ESSP:

- 1) in October 2015 on progress against the agreed indicators, as the data to assess measurable change during 2014-15 will become available over the next few months;
- 2) in April 2016 on progress in delivering the action plan for 2015-16 and to seek endorsement of the action plan proposed for 2016-17.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

- Notes the progress made during 2014-15;
- Endorses the action plan for 2015-16.

Michael Turner, Environment Agency

Appendix A – Summary table of progress during 2014-15

Appendix B - Proposed Environment Strategy action plan for 2015-16.