

Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP)  
Date: 18 April 2013  
Title: Update on Strategic Property Asset Collaboration in East Sussex (SPACES)  
Author: Malcolm Johnston, Director of Resources, Rother District Council - Chair of SPACES  
Purpose: To update ESSP members on the current work of SPACES

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**Recommendation:**

That the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:

1. Notes the work carried out thus far by SPACES
2. Continues to support the group in achieving its aim of delivering efficiencies across the public sector estate in East Sussex

**1. Current Issues**

- 1.1. The last update referred to the appointment of a SPACES Programme Manager initially for a period of 12 months and I am pleased to report that an appointment has been made on a secondment basis from Sussex Police. The role will commence in mid-April on a part time basis, building up over the following weeks into a full time role. The intention is that as a starting point the Programme Manager will meet with the Chair of each of the district/borough based sub-groups to ascertain the priorities within each area.
- 1.2. A further report on the proposed agile hub/shared service centre was presented to the East Sussex Chief Executives' Group on 15 March 2013 where it was agreed that the cost of consultancy work to take the project forward at this stage was prohibitive. It was, however, acknowledged that the report did raise questions about how services were delivered in the future and the meeting agreed to have a facilitated session to consider options.
- 1.3. Work is continuing on a range of projects involving partners in each district/borough area across the County. There are also a number of potential projects in the pipeline and there is no doubt that SPACES has provided an important focus for discussion among partners and also the forum to explore further opportunities. This is particularly important as the group looks to move from taking existing opportunities for better asset utilisation to actually creating those opportunities.
- 1.4. My last report referred to the fact that future reports would have a table showing the projects currently being undertaken. Although not available with this update it is still the intention to append a table to future reports to allow ESSP members to see the range of projects and partners involved.

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