

Response to ESSP questions from partners

By 2018 the public sector will be significantly smaller than it is now. For you:

ORGANISATION	What are the key things that you've learnt over the last 5 years that we need to apply?	What are the key areas where residents will see a difference?	What does this mean for partnerships and how we work together to make the best use of reduced resources
East Sussex County Council	<p>The importance of partnerships and partnership working. It has been hugely beneficial to share the scale of change and challenge across partners through the ESSP and other groups.</p> <p>These discussions have enabled us and partners to be mindful of the changes in organisations that could impact on the services we and others provide. They have also allowed a more honest debate of the impact of these changes.</p> <p>The ESSP in particular has helped with communications, getting messages out to organisations and the public about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale of challenge faced within the sector. • Signposting members of the public to alternative available support where services have changed or ceased to operate. 	<p>The County Council will still have a net budget of about £350m next year but will need to make savings of £20m-£25m in 2016/17 and a total of £70m-£90m up to 2018/19.</p> <p>There is a scale of challenge which cannot be met without direct impact on front line services for all service areas across the organisation. Statutory services need to be provided at a reduced level and some services that the public value will have to cease if we are to manage within our means. This may increase the risks to some of the more vulnerable people in the community.</p> <p>The three years between 2016/17 and 2018/19 will continue to see demand for services continue to rise due to demographic pressures. The next three years will be unprecedented both in the scale of Government grant reductions and uncertainty about the effects of the Care Act which means that the financial position of the Council's largest service is hard to predict.</p> <p>The key changes expected which will affect our services are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential need for 7,500 new jobs to meet the increase in the workforce as the retirement age increases and to provide employment for those currently on Jobseekers' Allowance; and • Whilst the overall number of young people will decrease (as the population of 0-4 and 16-17 falls), there will be an increase in the number of primary age pupils in the middle of the period and a need for additional primary school places to provide places and choice in the areas where new housing growth is providing pressures on places. This bulge in the primary school population will feed through to 	<p>We need to continue to work with partners to ensure we are making the best use of resources and make sure that we understand the effect of our proposals on areas of the County and the different communities within East Sussex.</p> <p>We will need to look for opportunities, with partners, to ensure that the best use is made of all public funding available, for the benefit of local people e.g. through East Sussex Better Together</p> <p>We need to look for opportunities to help our communities be strong and resilient so that they can continue to function against a background of diminished public sector support – e.g. supporting thriving economies and supporting self-help by individuals and communities.</p> <p>Be honest and upfront about what we can and can't offer in the future.</p> <p>The latest information is available by clicking here</p>

		<p>secondary schools and there will be a need for additional places in the following three years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to continue to review the Capital Programme to ensure we are making the right choices between revenue and capital to meet basic need in the county. 	
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency now has a closer working relationship with DEFRA; with shared back-office functions whilst maintaining a high-quality service. Some back-office services have been out sourced to a private shared service provider.	A continued focus on its major incident response service. It shall not be attending minor incidents, which are often those that cause nuisance within communities and escalation to councillors. It was acknowledged that managing expectations will be important across the board so issues are not fruitlessly escalated.	Continue to rely on partners to support improvements in the quality of rivers and bathing waters to meet legal standards
Federation of Small Businesses	Raise community prosperity by continuing to support the catalytic elements that create this: support local economies (create the environment for local wealth creation through low cost business skill development, low business rates, low parking costs, light touch regulation, strong 'local first' procurement strategy), business and employability skills in schools, continuing to support the growth in apprenticeships and parenting/family relationship building skills. Effectiveness in these strategies reduces the resource needed for curative/remedial work.	Prosperous, clean, inviting town and village centres. Contented, more together families. Less disruption in schools – teachers focused more on learning than the behaviour management of the few and a greater more inclusive readiness for work. Higher employment among young people and a more skilled local workforce.	A more facilitative rather than controlling Council. A more focused council, working with partners with specific purpose and on specific projects ('You're Hired' is a good example). Less paperwork/less resource on analysis and planning. Plainer English and greater focus on tasks rather than process, equal weight given to planning/doing/reviewing will mean more will get done. The heavy writing of plans and over-thinking/analysis often paralyses the momentum to make a difference (South East LEP is a good example). Reduce number of face to face meetings/events and increase use of conference calls and use of social media instead. This is an adaption to the often gridlocked transport systems which puts people off travelling.
Hastings Borough	We all know that decisions made by one part of the state sector can have an	HBC's identifying areas as part of our budget strategy moving forward but we are also looking at opportunities for income	Projects like the Mind the Gap project are essential but it is also difficult to

Council	<p>incredible impact on other agencies, and that local people do not distinguish between who is responsible for the lack of resources, they simply want resolutions to their issues ASAP. However it is incredibly hard when making choices within an organisation to also take the time to secure the evidence of the impact of your service reduction on other agencies/the population.</p> <p>We need to get better at looking at all aspects of public sector support and how we can ensure we maximise the value of the reducing resources we have. Not confident this is achievable with the scale or timing of the reductions we are all facing without a fundamental re-think.</p>	<p>generation and alternative models of service delivery. The most immediate change will be the Digital by Design project which will increase people's ability to report and request services 24/7 – we are working to ensure those who are digitally excluded are still catered for.</p>	<p>share proposals that have implications for staffing or service delivery until they have been fully appraised and have political sign off – the budget timescales also do not assist this longer term planning!</p>
Sussex Police	<p>To understand what the implications of cuts will be on partner organisations prior to decisions being made.</p>	<p>This is very difficult to précis because it will depend on the community demographics and the change being made, in some cases residents will see improvements in services but in many others services will reduce and become less comprehensive.</p>	<p>As Q.1 partnership engagement and sharing services becomes much more important, it is essential that partners do not over supply or duplicate services, it is also important that partners have a good understanding of the impact on others of changes in their business.</p>
SELEP Team East Sussex	<p>These are difficult and complex issues: nonetheless accurate and thoughtful communication to the public to attempt to gain their understanding is crucial: not just through the engaged user groups but through much wider networks. Is there any merit in a more collective professionally advised communications strategy even if it's separate messages through similar networks?</p> <p>A rather more subtle process is required</p>	<p>From TES/SELEPs viewpoint we aspire to a rather more positive message of increased prosperity with all the benefits that that brings. Converting that into assistance for the more disadvantaged may not be so straightforward but there are possibilities when we have established our networks properly for increase attempts to engage business in CSR/volunteering. One of the snags of a small business economy though: not much business time to spare.</p>	<p>Ensure as much thought/cooperation /clarity of interaction at interfaces between partners e.g. (this has been at least partly <u>very well</u> addressed) the interface between the police/social services/NHS around mental health and alcoholism.</p> <p>More sharing of ownership and interchange of resource in cases at that interface. Clear protocols at overlap. Collective thinking on shared activities.</p>

	<p>of changing the thought process from "they" (which invariably means government local or national) should do something about it to "we" must do something about it. But for a lot of communities this needs a little help in enabling.</p>		<p>Making it easy for the voluntary sector to take over/originate activities. Using external facilitators for these transfers, even though this will incur a cost there will be a far larger saving.</p> <p>Some of this happens already but the scale could be increased to mutual benefit of creating more self-reliant communities and cost saving.</p>
<p>Wealden District Council</p>	<p>Need for more information sharing between organisations (legislation has recently been changed to allow this between some of the blue light services), and also a different approach to commissioning when commissioning from partners. It's really important not to destroy the trust relationships which allow partnerships to function effectively, perhaps by moving towards co-design and delivery in conjunction with a range of potential delivery partners. This is challenging for the usual public sector procurement approach, but re-imagining is key.</p> <p>In the context of extremely scarce resource, question everything, be inclusive, don't make assumptions and use robust evidence to determine where the best bang for buck lies, i.e. what's really worth doing.</p>	<p>Residents will need to be more self-sufficient, proactively using more online access to services, and more informal local support. There is also a need to wean people away from wanting to talk to people if they just want to pay their council tax, or report a missed bin.</p> <p>Understanding and accepting the need for more development is also an ongoing campaign, and being realistic about the infrastructure that is needed.</p>	<p>More openness and transparency in partnerships There's something about sovereignty / sovereignties – we need to find ways to share responsibilities and maintain accountability without eroding esteem.</p>