

# Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership Agenda

**Monday, 30 January 2017 at 10.00 am**

Council Chamber, Aquila House

For further information, please contact Jenny Ling tel: 01424 451844 or email:  
jling@hastings.gov.uk

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# Agenda Item 10

**LSP Board – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

## **Regeneration update**

### **CLLD – CHART (Connecting Hastings and Rother Together)**

We have been successful at stage 1, and our Local Development Strategy (LDS) has been approved. We have been asked to submit the two application forms to the managing authorities by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

This stage needs to articulate how Hastings Borough Council, as accountable body, will support the Local Action Group in delivering the aspirations of the LDS, and how we will run the local grants programme. It must not duplicate provision funded elsewhere. CHART seeks to innovate, delivering a step change which is transformative rather than delivering or duplicating traditional provision.

If successful, CHART will aim to impact 5 areas across Hastings and Bexhill, with a collective population of 39,000. It seeks to link individuals in the most deprived areas to opportunities and self-enterprise. It will support business growth and enterprise in addition to upskilling individuals.

The programme has forecasted the ability to draw down £3.7M across 5 years by evidencing a match of £3.7m public sector investment. We have been able to do this by working closely in partnership with a number of organisations across the area. It aims to support approximately 1700 participants, 650 potential entrepreneurs, 300 businesses, create 200 jobs, and support 200 unemployed participants into work.

There are 4 work packages, detailed below.

- Developing physical assets of value to local communities
- Enterprise and business support
- Community development and capacity building
- Employability support

The ambition is to have a small number of projects, which work collaboratively and create real impact rather than having scores of smaller funded projects. If successful it is forecasted that the first calls will not be open until the autumn 2017.

## **EMFF FLAG 2 (Hastings Fisheries Local Action Group)**

We have been successful FLAG 2 funding. The programme will launch on the 30<sup>th</sup> January and run until December 2019. The programme will support projects which fall within 3 main thematic areas:

- Creating a sustainable fleet and supply chain
- Research and the environment – aiding mitigating the impacts of the common fisheries policy on the fleet
- Developing the identity of the Place

The funding will focus on activities situated in and around the fishing beach, The Stade and Rock-a-Nore Road. The call for projects will likely occur in March.

## **Other major projects**

Considerable progress was made on a number of important strategic projects. White Arkitekter completed the first stage of their masterplanning exercise on the White Rock area, this included a very successful workshop session in December, which was well attended by stakeholders. Evidence gathering also concluded for our heritage strategy, and we expect to start formally consulting on our draft heritage strategy very shortly. And 1066 Country Marketing, the local private/public sector partnership in which Hastings Borough Council plays a lead role, launched its new ten year strategy and associated marketing plan in December.

The 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'that' battle were well marked, both through the ROOT1066 international contemporary arts festival during the autumn, and a number of events marking the actual anniversary in October. These attracted considerable national, and international, publicity, were very well supported by local residents and brought significant numbers of visitors into the area.

**13 DECEMBER 2016**

Present: Shabana Bayjou, Marie Casey, Chowney, Dixon, Frost and Manwaring, Andrew Palmer, Rosie Ross, John Williams, Shiela Agarwal and Steve Jakes

Apologies for absence were noted for Bruce Campbell, Cooke, Feather, Galbraith, Thompson and Watson

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Simon Hubbard is a Governor at the Sussex Coast College Hastings.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September were agreed with the following matters arising:

(4. Homelessness/Rough Sleeping) – Simon reported that Public Space Protection Orders are being developed and can be served where necessary from April 2017. How to more effectively use the Warden Service and other uses for problem areas of the town centre is being considered and discussion will continue in the New Year. Steve Manwaring reported that a partnership meeting took place yesterday to look at upping the youth diversionary offer and devising a programme for a longer term sustainable interventions.

**3. INWARD MIGRATION AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION RESEARCH PROJECT**

Professor Sheila Agarwal and Dr Steve Jakes were in attendance to outline the provisional programme for the inward migration project which will begin in January. Approximately 30 interviews will be held with residents not born within the town within 4 areas identified as deprived. EDGs views are sought on where to draw samples from, where to recruit from, where to interview and the construction of sample groups. The methodology has been through the University of Portsmouth's ethical evaluation process and a token payment will be made to participants.

EDG welcomed the project, recognising that inward migration can change the town for the better. The information gathered may offer the opportunity for further research or development. They made the following recommendations:

- More information on the methodology and recruitment will be needed
- The sample should be replicated in each of the areas, categories may need to be reduced so as not to lose focus
- How to 'badge' the survey will have to be considered, the word 'migrant' may not be appropriate when promoting the project
- This kind of qualitative data will be useful; the drivers for more affluent people to relocate here and why they stay will be valuable information as we already have a good understanding of what attracts the less well-off
- The map is based on the 2010 IMD and therefore doesn't accurately reflect more recent data for deprivation. How to capture the 'now' and what we compare it with will requires more thought
- We need to tease out the more relevant issues and tailoring the interviews to individuals will be necessary to achieve this. Key questions could be perceptions of community cohesion, experiences in accessing services, ambitions, motivations and social activities
- Identifying the positive impact of inward migration will help to promote the regeneration image of seaside towns

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- Expanding the number of interviews would result in more comprehensive data. The possibility of training local people to undertake these may be a way to expand the scope of the survey

The updated draft questions will be circulated. Steve Manwaring indicated that HVA would be happy to assist with recruitment via the HVA bulletin, the Links project or other specific events.

## 4. SPORTS HUB

Simon reported that the proposals to build a new sports complex at Bulverhythe have now been made public. Both the football and cricket club are in need of upgrading and so this new sports hub would provide an opportunity for them to relocate to a purpose built facility. It would also result in housing development opportunities in Blacklands, Horntyte and Bulverhythe.

Members are broadly supportive but planning issues are complex as the land bridges the HBC/RDC land boundaries and some of the land is earmarked for community use so many details will still need to be confirmed and assurances given. Flood risk mitigation works will also be required. The Council are commissioning two studies on the proposed outcomes and the viability of business plans and further details will follow when the position is clearer.

## 5. UPDATE ON HE IN HASTINGS

The report into higher education provision in Hastings by BiGGAR consultancy has been completed, it has been discussed by the Task Force and distributed to the LSP for information. The report has been useful to consider the potential for moving forward without restrictions on any provider.

The University of Brighton's consultation has now concluded and the Governors will now meet to take a decision on closing the Hastings campus. A commitment to the current students who will complete their studies in 2019 has been made as well as continuing to support the College in validating HE courses and the offer to use one of the University's buildings rent free.

EDG commented that:

- They have concerns for the remaining UoB students who will experience the trail off of support and facilities during the latter stages of their studies. Those who are progressing more slowly may also struggle to complete their courses without ongoing support. Will there be any discount on their fees as a result of the diminishing offer?
- The College may struggle to validate courses on their own or have difficulty in expanding to the timescales that the University have identified. Their appeal to attract students is in question and an external partner may be required to bolster student enrolment
- Without good HE the town's educational reputation is compromised and we need to continue to pursue other options
- Buildings currently used as student accommodation could be left empty and be hard to find alternative uses for. We need more information on buildings which were developed for this specific use and any limitations on their use to plan for future without delay. There is some commercial sensitivity around the use of buildings and negotiations will primarily take place between the University and Sea Change.
- The University's consultation process did not seem like a genuine attempt to consult but rather was conducted with a closed agenda to comply with the legal requirements
- Hastings needs to develop a unique offer to attract students, we cannot compete with larger city universities or those with established reputations for excellence

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- We should keep in mind that the College is expecting an Ofsted inspection in January and the ongoing area review. Having the College come to a future EDG meeting for discussion on this and other FE issues was suggested

### 6. **EAST SUSSEX STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP 5 DECEMBER**

<http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports/ESSP/2016>

### 7. **DRAFT LSP AGENDA - 30 JANUARY 2017**

The draft agenda for January's LSP Board meeting was noted.

### 8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 27 MARCH 2017 2PM**

Future dates:

- Tues 27th June 2017, 2.30pm
- Mon 18th September 2017, 10am
- Mon 18th December 2017, 10am

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