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Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership Agenda

Monday, 17 July 2017 at 10.00 am

Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings. East Sussex, TN34 3UY

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Agenda Item 4

Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership

Minutes 24 April 2017

Present:

Present:

Statutory Sector

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| Cllr Peter Chowney | Hastings Borough Council |
| Cllr Nigel Sinden | Hastings Borough Council |
| Steve Curry | Sussex Police |
| Julie Gilbert-King | EFRS |
| Simon Hubbard | Hastings Borough Council |
| Mike Thompson | Amicus Horizon |
| Richard Watson | Hastings and Rother CCG |
| John Williams | Sea Change Sussex |
| Wayne Edmunds | Department of Work and Pensions |

Community & Voluntary Sectors

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| Marie Casey | Hastings Community Network |
| Steve Manwaring | Hastings Community Network |
| Catherine Orbach | Hastings Community Network |
| Naomi Ridley | Hastings Community Network |
| Annie Whelan | Hastings Community Network |
| Theresa Andrews | Hastings Community Network |
| Jacqui Everard | Hastings Community Network |
| James Ellis | Hastings Community Network |

Business Sector

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| Clive Galbraith | Chamber of Commerce |
| Andrew Knight | Chamber of Commerce |

In Attendance:

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| Shabana Bayjou | Hastings Borough Council |
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Apologies for absence were received from:

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| Cllr Rob Lee | Hastings Borough Council |
| Clive Cooke | SCCH |
| Cllr Nick Bennett | East Sussex County Council |
| Annie Whelan | Hastings Community Network |
| Paul Frost | University of Brighton |
| Jane Feather | |

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| 17 | <p><u>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING (CHAIR)</u></p> <p>We are still awaiting a reply from the University Young People's health – Theresa will speak to Emile regarding engaging young people in schools. High Energy Drinks – letter from Amber Rudd MP has been circulated to everyone</p> | |
| 18 | <p><u>DISTRICT COMMANDER - CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES FOR HASTINGS, CHIEF INSPECTOR STEVE CURRY (10 MINS PLUS 10MINS DISCUSSION)</u></p> <p>District commander, Steve Curry, reported on the key challenges and force priorities. The financial challenges facing the force at the moment are challenging and a saving of £42m needs to be found.</p> <p>With regard to the Local Policing Programme, there are different strands to this including response teams, investigation teams and Prevent strand. He will be attending a board meeting tomorrow to obtain key decisions prior to implementation of the programme but it will be challenging.</p> <p>At present there is a severe threat level in place and the key aim is to keep the community safe. There are key issues that they are focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and protecting vulnerable people • Preventing and responding to harm • Catching criminals • Valuing and making the best use of resources • Targeting enforcement of heroin and crack cocaine use • Identifying exploitation in the community including identifying people living in sub-standard accommodation and working below the minimum wage – car washes have already been targeted in this respect. • Anti-social behaviour – This is a key priority for the future and St Leonards is being targeted <p>Steve Manwaring invited Steve Curry for a discussion on community safety which Steve accepted.</p> <p>Marie – People in crisis/mental health is a massive issue and currently a priority and they are currently working along with others including mental health nurses to look at this. Cannabis factories are a concern with regard to the mental health of the community in the future.</p> <p>The business community have expressed concerns about the area and are moving out due to the negative impact that they are having on the local community and their business.</p> | |
| 19 | <p><u>UNIVERSAL CREDIT ROLL OUT OF FULL SERVICE AND THE BENEFIT CAP - WAYNE EDMUND, COUNTY PARTNERSHIP MANAGER, DWP (15 MINS)</u></p> <p>Wayne Edmunds, County Partnership Manager at the DWP gave a presentation on Universal Credit.</p> <p>East Sussex is one of the first to roll out the full digital service. This is a</p> | |

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| | <p>major change in the way the DWP interacts with different claimants and services and it brings together various benefits. The full service is currently only available for new claimants. Legacy benefits and Universal Credit are now running parallel. This simplifies the system and removes the number of hours that someone can work and will depend on income they are receiving. This is a different way of delivering the service. People must make their claim digitally and it is now easier to make an initial claim and then people must attend an interview at the job centre to discuss the way forward. Each claimant has an account and will have access to a service centre at the start of the claim and can interact with their coach. They will be paid monthly in arrears but if necessary they can have advance payments. Payment can be between 5-6 weeks after making their initial claim.</p> | |
| 20 | <p>RESPONSE FROM ADVICE AGENCIES - TERESA ANDREWS, HARC</p> <p>Teresa Andrews (HARC) responded as someone who goes out to train different agencies on benefits etc and runs the Welfare Benefits hotline. Although the service went live in December some changes will only take effect from 1st April and therefore feedback is limited. They have been working with officers from Hastings Borough Council to assist in the transition, including 300 families that have been affected by the benefits cap. A lot of people are frightened by it and need reassurance. There are two major concerns, one being that sickness benefit is being included in universal credit. People are not finding it easy and many do not have internet access and go along to make a claim only to find that additional information is required so they have to return home and make another appointment. It is also having an impact on the library service as this is creating more work for them with people coming into use their computers and many staff do not have the relevant training to assist people so this is something that needs to be addressed. There is also the concern that permitted work is not now in place.</p> <p>With regard to employment support allowance, under the old system there would be an assessment/medical then a decision would be made. Under the new system, if someone is in a group that are not well but are well enough to work, it can be six months before they are given a medical. During this time they will be forced to work or to be seen to be seeking work while they await their medical and a decision is made which is proving to be very difficult for people.</p> | |
| 21 | <p>IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM AND UNIVERSAL CREDIT - JOINT PRESENTATION (15 MINS)</p> <p>Amicus Horizon gave a presentation on the Impact of Welfare Reform and Universal Credit. There was a concern that the benefit cap was causing problems with people not having enough money to pay their rent. Concerns were also raised about literacy needs/inaccurate medicals/digital access and the number of evictions that may occur as a result of changing over systems and they wanted to know what support systems would be put in place for people. Wayne Edmunds said that he was happy to meet with agencies to discuss their concerns. It was also confirmed that the DWP is funding a Benefit Cap Co-ordinator and that both digital and personal budget support was available via Hastings Borough Council as well as the DWP giving</p> | |

massive support to people to get them back into work. Issues had arisen with people asking for help that are not able and fit enough to work, in particular people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and therefore HARC confirmed that they now have a dedicated person to help MS sufferers with appeals, etc. Questions were raised about where people should go when Amicus are unable to house people due to non-payment of rent following the implementation of the new system and if there were enough jobs around in Hastings for people who need to return to work. Steve Manwaring said that he was happy to arrange a meeting to discuss this with the various agencies.

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| <u>22</u> | <u>PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING - FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOP 15/03/2017 JOHN WITTINGTON (INSERT TITLE) AND ANDREW PALMER, HEAD OF HOUSING (VERBAL 10 MINS)</u> | |
| | <p>John Whittington gave a talk on homelessness prevention within the area. The welfare reforms had put a strain on social housing and there was also a shortage of affordable rental homes. There has been a 400% increase in people reporting for housing and a huge increase in the amount of B&B accommodation that is being provided with problems for people moving on to social housing. In 2011 there were 3 homeless people in the area and that number has now risen to 26.</p> <p>There are now 50 people from 25 organisations who are getting together to help the street community including the homeless and street drinkers. A list will be drawn up of what everyone is doing and their activities will then be co-ordinated.</p> | |
| <u>23</u> | <u>REGENERATION UPDATE</u> | |
| | The Report was noted. | |
| <u>24</u> | <u>NEXT MEETING DATE - MONDAY, 17TH JULY 2017</u> | |

Agenda Item 7

Regeneration update for LSP Board

White Rock Area

Our consultants, White Arkitekter, have just completed their masterplan for the White Rock area, and this is being reviewed currently. We expect to circulate the document very shortly to those who attended their workshop and a copy will also be sent to the LSP when published.

Conservation Area Appraisal Consultation

Conservation Areas are areas of special architectural and historic interest which should be preserved or enhanced. Although conservation areas mean some extra planning controls and considerations, these exist to protect the historic and architectural elements which make the place special. The aim in exercising these controls is to ensure that what makes the area special is not harmed by proposed changes. They are most likely to affect owners who want to work on the outside of their building or any trees on their property.

We have been reviewing the existing Hastings Town Centre, the White Rock and part of the Old Town conservation areas (including Hastings Castle, the Pelham group of buildings and Wellington Square).

Our new draft appraisal provides a description of the historical development and significance of these areas and important features that should be protected. The draft document proposes the amalgamation of these existing conservation areas as well as proposing boundary extensions. The appraisal process has also helped inform the Management Plan, which sets out steps that might need to be taken to maintain the special interest of the area.

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/planning/policy/consultations/future_developments/

The closing date for comments is Friday, 21st July at 5pm.

Coastal Spaces Project (Local Growth Fund)

The Coastal Communities Housing Intervention Project is a partnership between Hastings Borough Council, Thanet District Council and Tendring District Council. Across the whole project, the funding is £2 million which equates to 23% of the total value of the project. In Hastings, Local Growth Fund moneys will be used to fund new build development in the St Leonards Renewal Area. Whilst previously this involved the compulsory purchase of a large vacant dwelling, this site is no longer viable and HBC along with Optivo (our strategic partner in Coastal Space) have identified an alternative property which is available on the open market. The value of LGF investment in Hastings is £ 666,666.

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