

Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership Agenda

Monday, 29 April 2019 at 10.00 am

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

If you are attending the Town Hall for this meeting, please enter the building via the Community Contact Centre entrance.

For further information, please contact Chantal Lass tel: 01424 451483 or email: class@hastings.gov.uk

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4.	Minutes and Matters Arising (Chair)	1 - 40
5.	Sussex Police - Drugs harm in Hastings (Sarah Godley, Chief Inspector District Commander, Sussex Police) Presentation and discussion	
6.	East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Service - update and opportunities for partnership working (Caroline Evans, Strategic Commissioning Manager -Substance Misuse ESCC AND Susan Vaughan, Implementation Manager for East Sussex, Change Grow Live) Presentation and discussion 10 Minute Break	

7.	Future of Hastings Town Centre - creating a new vision for Hastings town centre (Simon Hubbard Director, Hastings Borough Council) Presentation and discussion	
8.	Regeneration Update(s) Written update provided	41 - 44
9.	Executive Delivery Group Notes (11th March 2019)	45 - 50
10.	East Sussex Strategic Partnership notes (20th March 2019) **Reminder** All Partners are invited to make nominations for the ESSP chair by Friday 3rd May 2019	51 - 58
11.	Urgent Items	
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Agenda Item 4 Public Document Pack

Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership

Minutes 28 January 2019

Present:

Statutory Sector

Councillor Peter Chowney, HBC
Councillor Rob Lee, HBC
Councillor Nick Bennett, ESCC
Simon Hubbard HBC
Jim Sharpe Sussex Coast College
Brett White Sussex Police
Simon Barden Sussex Police
Julia King ES Fire Service
Bruce Campbell DWP
Richard Watson, NHS Hastings and
Rother CCG

Community & Voluntary Sectors

Jacky White Optivo
Sharon Saunders Optivo
Tracey Rose FSN
Carole Dixon EFT
Steve Manwaring HVA
Mark Turczanski HVA
Annie Whelan Seaview

Business Sector

Clive Galbraith (Chair)
Sean Dennis

50	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>	
	Apologies were received from Sarah Godley, Trevor Davies, Tracy Dighton, Catherine Orbach, Dr John Smith, Vanessa Biddiss, John Shaw	
51	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>	
	There were no declarations of interest	
52	<u>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING (CHAIR)</u>	
	The minutes of the LSP meeting held on the 15 th October 2018, had not been received by many members and will be recirculated.	
53	<u>HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL BUDGET AND CORPORATE PLAN 2019/20</u>	
	Councillor Peter Chowney, Leader of Hastings Borough Council and	

Finance and Property Portfolio Holder presented the Council's budget and corporate plan priorities for 2019/2020. (see Councillor Chowney presentation). Peter highlighted the Council's ongoing budget shortfalls, including the budgetary deficit of £1.8 million in 2019/20 and £2.5 million in 2020/21.

Peter advised a number of national financial policy changes continue to impact on the Council's budget including,

- Reduction in the Settlement Funding Assessment of 9% compared to the previous year
- Revenue support grant reduction to £0 from £1.4 million
- New homes bonus reduced by 14.4%
- A 2.99% increase in Council Tax

This coupled with the uncertainty of Brexit, volatility in income and expenditure and increasing pressure on council services such as homelessness and unavoidable costs such as software upgrades, increasing salaries and new waste contract arrangements has helped to create a perfect storm!

The impacts on our 2019/20 budget include staff redundancies, using £1.8 million of transition reserves to balance the budget and investing in income generation initiatives. (see Peter's presentation for full details of planned spending reductions, areas of growth and the capital programme)

Peter highlighted a number of growth items in the budget for 2019/20 including:

- Digital by Design and the continued movement of our processes and transactions on line
- The purchase of Microsoft licensing for Windows 10
- Bohemia Town Centre Project staff team to deliver the Area Action Plan

The 2 key themes for the Corporate Plan in 2019/20 were presented

- Things we have to do by law or are contractually obliged to do
- Things we choose to do to enhance quality of life in the town

and Peter highlighted the Council's 6 key corporate programmes for the coming financial year as:

1. Waste services including bringing street cleansing back in house and the launch of a new contract for household waste and recycling in partnership with Rother and Wealden Council
2. Modernisation and digital efficiencies with the development of more online services, an improved online payment service and self service area for benefits claims.

3. Tackling homelessness and disadvantage including a new homelessness strategy, implementing the rough sleepers initiative, and buying houses to reduce the use of B & B accommodation
4. Income generation through the development of renewable energy schemes, developing council-owned housing sites and purchasing commercial properties
5. Tackling climate change in response to the IPCC report last year, identifying what the Council and the town working in partnership can do to deliver a carbon neutral Hastings, including identifying sites for sustainable energy generation and updating local plan policies. .
6. Physical regeneration activities including the development of the West Marina site for housing and leisure, the White Rock and Town Centre Area Action Plan and a new visitor centre at Hastings Country Park.

Peter summarised by stating the Council faces ongoing challenges, including meeting the £2.5 million budgetary deficit for 2020/21 and confirmed that during the coming year the Council will be working hard to increase the income we generate, make additional savings and efficiencies, transfer services on line and identify external funding opportunities which support the ambitions of the corporate plan.

The Board sought clarification regarding the total reduction in expenditure between 2018/19 and 2019/20, and Peter advised the reduction amounted to £1million.

The Board expressed concern about the proposed deletion of Community Partnership Funding in 2021/22, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss what the likely impact of this would be on the Community and Voluntary Sector and especially advice services operating in the town. Peter confirmed that the Council intends to work together to understand the impact on services and talk to all partners affected about options and alternatives.

54 NHS HASTINGS AND ROTHER CCG- 2018/19 FINANCIAL POSITION AND 2019/20 PRIORITIES

Richard Watson Health Inequalities Programme Manager of Hastings and Rother CCG provided an update about the CCG's financial position. He reminded the Board that the CCG is responsible for commissioning the vast majority of healthcare services in Hastings and St Leonards, including GP services, the Conquest Hospital, Mental Health services, and Learning Disability Support.

Richard stated that CCG's budget for 2018/19 of £250 million is spent across 5 key service areas:

- 52% acute (East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's Conquest hospital services)

- 9% primary care (NHS cost for GPs including general practice)
- 8% mental health (Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)
- 7% community (ESHT's community services)
- 12% prescribing

(%s based on 2017/18 actual expenditure)

Richard advised the Board, that the CCG started the financial year with a budget deficit and legal directions from NHS England. In addition, the CCG faced a number of challenges, similar to those of our wider NHS partners in the region and nationally:

- An increased demand for health care services
- People are living longer with more complex needs
- Ongoing national austerity impacts

However, set against these challenges, the CCG has worked closely with other East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) partners in 2018/19 transforming and integrating health care services and other services that support health outcomes. Richard highlighted the following successes:

- Integration to address health inequalities
- Improved access, quality and safety of local people
- The Conquest Hospital performed well last winter and has continued to do so this winter
- A & E performance is in the upper quartile nationally
- There has been a reduction in the length of stays in hospital
- Reduced delays in the transfer of care
- Recognised as good practice by Matt Hancock(Secretary of State for Health & Social Care) in his recent visit to Hastings. However, this is set against a back drop of significant increases in demand for GP, A & E services and planned care especially in deprived communities coupled with an increase in the unit cost of care.

Richard advised that the CCG have a 4 year Financial Recovery Plan in place (2018/19 to 2021/2022), to ensure our local health care system is returned to financial sustainability. The implications of this include

- An agreement with NHS England that Hastings & Rother CCG will deliver a £12million deficit during 2018/19, total saving required is £32 million – with Eastbourne and Hailsham CCG required to deliver £20 million of savings. This includes an agreed £18million Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) savings programme.

Richard stated that the CCG is on target to achieve its QIPP plans in 2018/19, which means the CCG will receive end of year NHS England investment through its Commissioning Sustainability Fund. Richard detailed some of the QIPP achievements as:

- Reductions in prescribing costs led by the CCG's medicines management team
- Establishing integrated locality teams e.g. district nursing, occupational therapists and social workers
- Good financial housekeeping

Priorities for 2019/2020

The contracted sum has been agreed with East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust for 2019/2020. The CCG has recently received confirmation from NHS England about its financial settlement for the coming year.

Hastings and Rother and Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCGs are now working collaboratively with 6 other CCGs in Sussex and East Surrey, for example sharing back office functions. They now have one Chief Executive, Adam Doyle, who will shortly be announcing a new Sussex and East Surrey senior management team.

The NHS Long Term Health Plan was published in January – see the attached link for further information <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-long-term-plan/>

The aim of the 10 year health plan for patients is to:

- Make sure everyone gets the best start in life
- Deliver world class care for major health problems and
- To support people to age well

Following the publication of the 10 year plan, CCGs are tasked with developing their own 5 year plans to demonstrate how the national plan's ambitions will be delivered locally. Priorities include:

1. Doing things differently
2. Preventing illness and tackling health inequalities
3. Backing our workforce
4. Making better use of data and digital technology
5. Getting the most out of the tax payers' investment

The CCG will be developing with key stakeholders a five year plan, to deliver the ambitions of the 10 year national plan, and that there will be stakeholder engagement event(s) in March 2019 to help develop the local plan, to which the LSP Board will be invited. The plan provides further opportunity to work together and collaborate and additional investment

opportunities.

The Hastings and Rother CCG event is taking place on the 13th March at 2pm in Bexhill – follow the attached link to attend the event https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/our-health-and-careour-future-tickets-54978483123?utm_term=eventurl_text

Richard confirmed that NHS England will be providing communities with the greatest scale of inequality additional investment to tackle local health needs.

55 **NEW WASTE CONTRACT AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICE FOR THE TOWN**

Simon Hubbard, Director, Hastings Borough Council gave an update about both the new household Waste Contract and Street Cleansing Service, confirming that both of these services would be going live in June 2019.

Simon advised that the new waste contract has been awarded to Biffa, through a joint waste partnership with Rother and Wealden Councils. The specific details of the service are now being worked upon. In Hastings the Council is working on a revision of the weekly recycling collections. Approximately 12,000 properties still receive a weekly collection. These were likely to be moved to a fortnightly collection for recycling, helping to reduce ongoing collection costs.

Simon also advised that the Street Cleansing Service, is being brought in house, and will be directly delivered by the Council. Planning permission had been received for the new depot, and all the vehicles required to deliver the service have been specified, sourced and ordered. The digital online reporting service is being developed for My Hastings and we are in the process of finalising the transfer process for staff joining the Council from Kier. The Council will be employing a new senior manager to manage the service and staff team.

56 **SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP SECTOR FUND SUPPORT**

Simon Hubbard, Director, Hastings Borough Council, advised that the South East Local Enterprise Partnership was developing a revised Economic Plan and an Industrial Strategy, a local expression of the national Industrial Strategy. (see attached link or further information <https://www.southeastlep.com/our-strategy/strategic-economic-plan/>)

Simon stated that The Coastal Communities Group of SELEP have secured 'Sector Support Funding' (SSF) to undertake further research into coastal communities and will develop a prospectus/supplement to the revised Economic Strategy Statement to ensure ongoing and increased investment in coastal communities. (see attached link for further information about the Coastal Communities SSF project <https://www.southeastlep.com/project/coastal-communities-ssf-project/>)

Simon advised, the research will focus on issues which are of particular concern to coastal communities and economies, building on research carried out by Sheffield Hallam University providing further evidence to attract investment in capital projects, skills and jobs. The research will help to detail the economic opportunities and priorities specific to coastal areas.

The project is being supported by SELEP SSF funding (£40k) and funding from 10 other local authorities, each contributing £2000 each. Simon advised that, the outcome of the research will both underpin the revised regional economic plan and influence the emerging local industrial strategy, clearly identifying investment priorities for the regions coastal communities, including Hastings.

He advised that the first meeting was held last week in London, and that a brief for consultants was being developed. The LSP will be kept up to date and partners will have an opportunity to input their views and comments to the research. (Please see attached Hastings Borough Council Cabinet report 7th January 2019, which provides further information about the context of this research)

The Board asked whether there was still a likelihood that SELEP would be sub-divided into smaller regional LEPs, as had been discussed during 2018. Simon advised that the risk of this happening had been greatly reduced, and that the SELEP would continue in its current format for now

57

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND A FUTURE ROLE FOR LSP?

Councillor Peter Chowney, Leader of the Council and Finance and Property Portfolio Holder advised that the labour group would be putting a motion to Council in February 2019, in response to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change call for action to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Peter advised that the motion was based on a similar approach undertaken by Bristol City Council and other local authorities. The motion recognises the leadership role the borough council can take, and sets out an ambition to make Hastings and St Leonards carbon neutral by 2030. Peter stated that to deliver this ambition would require working in partnership with a range of organisations and that the LSP is a key body to help deliver this ambition for the town.

58

FUTURE ROLE FOR THE LSP

Clive Galbraith, Chair of the LSP stated that the funding for the LSP had greatly changed over the last 18 years, which has impacted on the role and mission of the LSP. It was an important body of key decision makers working in the town, which had direct impact over some issues and huge interest and influence on others for example, education.

Clive advised that last year, the Executive Delivery Group of the LSP met and began to discuss the role of the LSP, its work to date and what our focus could be going forward. Could the LSP focus on 2-3 areas of interest that we can influence? What would these issues be? What do we want to collectively contribute to that will be for the good of the town?

The Board considered that the town was evolving, moving forward and had come a long way since the LSP was initially set up, but that we are in a new era, especially in terms of public expenditure e.g. health services and further education. We need to focus on what is important, so shocks to our system, like the Brighton University announcement in 2017, can be managed collaboratively for the benefit of the town, maintaining its resilience to such shocks, and continued development.

The Board considered that it needed to be part of conversations that looked at what the future plans for the town are for the next 10-15 years; what will the future look and feel like with our changing circumstances? What role can the LSP play/ have/ influence? The Board thought that there was never a greater need to come together, to work together, but to make sure we made best use of our time and resources. How can we make a long term difference to the town?

Clive suggested that all partners consider what they consider the 2 or 3 key priorities could be for the coming year for the LSP, and to circulate these before the next meeting in April 2019.

NB Please forward any ideas, thoughts to Chantal Lass by email; to class@hastings.gov.uk by Wednesday 6th March 2019.

59 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bruce Campbell of DWP advised that the Universal Credit Service Centre would be moving into Hastings town centre. The office move would relocate 200 full time equivalent staff from its current base at Ashdown House to Lacuna Place, Priory Quarter on Havelock Road
<https://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/dwp-to-move-its-base-into-offices-in-hastings-priory-quarter-1-8362929>

Steve Manwaring advised that ESSP has now published its minutes from the meeting held on 15th January 2019 see link below for further information

<http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports/ESSP/2019>

The Board thought it would be useful to review past agenda items and identify any updates that are still outstanding e.g. The review of the Drug and Alcohol Service, the review of Urgent Treatment Centres and the Walk in Centre at future meetings.

60 NEXT MEETING DATES

Executive Delivery Board of LSP - Monday 11th March 2019 at 2pm

Local Strategic Partnership Board - Monday 29th April 2019 at 10am

Future Meeting Dates:

Executive Delivery Group	LSP Board	
Monday 11th March 2019 2pm Muriel Matters House	Monday 29th April 2019 10am Muriel Matters House	
Wednesday 26th June 2019 2pm Muriel Matters House	Monday 15th July 2019 10am Muriel Matters House	
Wednesday 11th September 2019 10am Muriel Matters House	Monday 14th October 2019 10am Muriel Matters House	
Wednesday 4th December 2019 10am Muriel Matters House	Monday 27th January 2020 10am Muriel Matters House	
Wednesday 11th March 2020 10am Muriel Matters House	Monday 20th April 2020 10am Muriel Matters House	

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Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership

Minutes 15 October 2018

Present:

Statutory Sector

Councillor Peter Chowney
Simon Hubbard
Councillor Rob Lee,
Paula Gorvett,
Richard Watson,
Jim Sharpe

Community & Voluntary Sectors

Steve Manwaring
Tracy Rose
Marc Turczanski
Tracy Dighton
Catherine Orbach
Carole Dixon,
Helen Kay

Business Sector

Sean Dennis

**In Attendance: Chantal Lass, Deniz
Musa, Michael Courts, Rebecca
Jackson**

41	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from: Marie Casey, Teresa Andrews, Julie King, Councillor Bennett, Yvonne Powell, Clive Galbraith, Emily Williams, Dr John Smith.	
42	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> There were no declarations of interest.	
43	<u>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING (CHAIR)</u> The board agreed the accuracy of the minutes from the previous meeting.	

CCG PRIMARY HEALTH CARE UPDATE

Paula Gorvett, advised that as part of a national requirement, the provision of Urgent Care is being reviewed and redesigned to provide an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC), which will end the provision of services being referred to as Walk in Centres, minor injury's unit or urgent care centres. (further information can be found here Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 27th September 2018:
<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MIId=3535&Ver=4>)

She stated that there was a clear framework that allowed for a streamlined service for patients with urgent healthcare needs. It was believed that this framework would decrease the amount of fragmentation and confusion for patients that are using the services currently in place.

Initially, in March 2018, it was agreed (by East Sussex Better Together) to establish Urgent Treatment Centres – co-located within the two district hospitals by April 2019 (namely, at Eastbourne District General Hospital and the Conquest in Hastings)

And to recommission, the NHS '111 service' which following a commissioning process was due to be expanded to include a clinical assessment service providing advice from a clinician who would triage a patient's needs.

- Patient self-support advice
- local pharmacy
- a home visit
- urgent treatment requirement
- accident and emergency

However, in June it was decided to halt the procurement of the NHS '111 service' and to start a new procurement process. This will mean the commencement of the revised service is delayed beyond April 2019. See the link for further information

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/documents/s21764/Appendix%20%20-%20ESBT%20UTC%20and%20PCEA.pdf>

Paula Gorvett advised that this has impacted on the development of the UTC but also provided an opportunity to consider the pre-consultation feedback from early public engagement including the possible closure of Hastings Walk in Centre and concerns raised over access to services should they be transferred and co-located at the Conquest Hospital. Options for Urgent Treatment Care are being reviewed and reconsidered in lieu of the depth of feeling from local people and organisations regarding the poor access to the Conquest Hospital. The outcome of the review should be known by the Autumn, and further public engagement is planned for

November – December 2018

For information the UTC timelines are as follows

Key Milestone	Delivery Date
Options Appraisal Paper to CCGs' Governing Bodies	September 2018
Updated Outline Business Case and plans for further public engagement and communications	October 2018
Further public engagement	November - December 2018
Final Business Case to CCGs' Governing Bodies	February 2019
Procurement of UTCs	February - May 2019
Mobilisation	May - October 2019
UTCs Operational	October 2019

(extracted from Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 27th September 2018)

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=3535&Ver=4>

As part of the review process all options are being considered including how to make best use of the Station Plaza Health centre site, and how it can be best used for the provision of primary health care, set against a back drop of key challenges such as

- workforce issues (recruitment, retention of staff and an ageing workforce)
- providing accessible critical services
- financial constraints

Concerns were raised about a number of issues

- The street community are regular users of the Walk in Centre, how would their needs be met, Paula Gorvett advised that a full equalities impact assessment will be carried out as part of the review to ensure all communities needs are met.
- With regard to wider public engagement Paula confirmed there will be further public consultation and engagement which will help to ensure local organisations viewpoints can be fed into the process, and that there will be a transparent decision main process.
- Local mental health needs were highlighted as a concern for those with experiencing mental health that may contact the '111 service' and how these individuals will be supported/ advised, Paula confirmed that the local services are still to be agreed and developed, but the pathways would be clear for the launch of the new '111 service'.

INFORMATION ON THE COLLEGE MERGER AND ACADEMIC RESULTS FOR 2017/2018

Jim Sharpe, the principle for East Sussex Coast College provided an update on the college merger and provisional academic results for 2017/18. Following a full Ofsted inspection in December 2017, the college received a 'Good' rating with recommendations for further improvement. , including reducing poor attendance of in subjects such as Maths and English.

Jim advised the remainder of the academic year was focused on the college merger creating the East Sussex College group, resulting in 3 devolved colleges of

- Sussex Coast College (including the Ore campus)
- Lewes College including the Newhaven campus
- Sussex Downs college in Eastbourne

The aim of the mergers is to financially sustain post 16 education in the county. On the ground, the colleges currently look the same, whereas governance structures have changed.

Sussex Downs college was dissolved into Sussex Coast College and now as a group 'East Sussex College'

A Board of governors is in place with overall responsibility for everyone on the group, with additional advisory boards in each area.

As historically Sussex Downs college has a Grade 3 Ofsted rating, the new college group inherits this rating and as such will be receiving a full Ofsted inspection sometime this academic year, with a monitoring visit expected in November 2018.

Jim presented the headline Academic Results for 2017/18 and noted that 'Achievement' did not describe a 'pass rate' but a measure of 'attendance' and 'pass rate', i.e. a measure of how many students stick with a course. Jim stated that this was a challenge with regard to A levels, where a percentage of students are lost between year 1 & 2.

He stated that with regard to progress measures in Hastings we were meeting the national average, but that Hastings has a lower entry criteria.

The board raised a questioned as to what the merger would mean at a local level, and whether for 19+ education, employers could be involved Jim advised the Sussex Skills Solutions initiative works with local employers but advised that it can be difficult to spend the adult education budget, and are currently looking at 'travel to learn patterns'. This was regarding the possibility of subject-specialised sites.

A question was asked in regards to whether there would be any scaling down or streamlining of existing services. The answer was that there were no plans to rationalise the sites at the moment, student numbers were healthy both the campuses at Eastbourne and Lewes were large.

46 **HASTINGS OPPORTUNITY AREA UPDATE**

Helen Kay gave an update on the Hastings Opportunity Area. It was stated that Hastings has already secured additional resource worth £1.8 million on top of it's share from £72 million, ie £6million. In Hastings the funding is being targeted at

- Improving literacy and maths
- Mental health resilience
- Improving attendance
- Retention of teachers

It was stated that all schools in Hastings are involved in at least one professional development programme for teachers, including training on developing early speech, language and communication skills, teaching maths, improving literacy, teaching science and behaviour management.

All schools were said to have agreed plans except for two. Every one of these schools and colleges were given dedicated budget to spend on extra-curricular activities.

700 children and young people took part in summer holiday activities. As well as this, thirty teachers are undergoing leadership training.

£250,000 grant funding is currently being promoted to improve attendance in schools and early years settings.

She stated that Hastings was the worst performing borough in the UK in terms of primary school attendance. Schools are working in partnership with Sussex Police, housing associations and ESCC to develop a Hastings wide approach to poor attendance and insight research is underway with parents, schools and young people.

A contract has been issued with the National Literacy Trust, to develop a local literacy Hub A soft launch has happened, and are now recruiting 'literacy champions' in areas of highest priority. KH also advised that a literacy fund has been launched for schools, to implement evidence based approaches to literacy.

Raising maths attainment is being delivered using 'mathematics mastery' approach.

With regard to improving mental health and resilience, all schools had received funding to allow for 4 days release for a lead in each school to undertake a mental health audit self-assessment. The results and findings will be presented at a seminar to all schools on the 31st October, from which a whole school approach may be developed.

The iRock service has been awarded additional funding and will expand its service from 3 to 5 days a week in November 2018, and will deliver mental

health support interventions with young people.

The board raised a question about what would happen after the programme ends as key to all of the programmes is their lasting impact and legacy. The new opportunity area board is learning from what's been commissioned so far, and the collaboration and dialogue can continue once the overall programme has completed.

With regard to mental health, the Board would welcome the opportunity to understand the results of the schools audit, so that the town's wider offer around mental health services can be informed by these findings and get involved in supporting young people and provide an integrated approach. This could include community organisations working in schools to address mental health issues that have been funded by the CCG for example, providing added value to the NOF and make sure services are aligned. The Board also raised concerns about arts education in schools and the impact this has on mental wellbeing and broader academic achievements, and whether there was a role for the new opportunity area to advocate for arts in school, especially as we are seeing 'art' disappearing from secondary schools curriculum.

47 **ESCC OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL EXAM RESULTS**

Elizabeth Funge presented an overview on educational achievement and provisional school exam results for east Sussex and Hastings. Please see slides for detailed analysis

The Early Years for both East Sussex and Hastings show that for the average of children achieving a 'good level of development' in Hastings shows continued improvement between 2016 to 2018, with performance better than the national average.

Referring to her presentation, she stated that the percentage gap between children eligible for Free School Meals and achieving a 'good level of development' has reduced whilst the national average had risen. For Year 1 pupils working at expected level of Phonics Hastings was now in line with the national average, which was a positive change. The gap between Hastings and the national average of disadvantaged Year 1 pupils working at the expected level has improved, with Hastings being below the national disadvantaged gap.

For key stage one, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard at key stage 1 in 2018 was above the national average, with Hastings having a strong performance in this area. For disadvantaged pupils, the percentage gap between disadvantaged pupils achieving standards in KS1 and non-disadvantaged pupils is narrowing.

For Key Stage 2, for pupils achieving the expected standard in reading writing and mathematics, Hastings performed better than the county and national standard, with a noticeable gap between pupils experiencing deprivation and those that don't.

Results for KS4 are still provisional, with improvement being seen for both English and mathematics, although average attainment in Hastings is still below the County and national average.

Overall, there was a positive outcome in the early years and primary school which will start to feed into secondary schools, with ongoing high levels of exclusions in secondary schools, 27% compared to a 9% national average.

Elizabeth clarified that that average data comparisons included Hastings data in the data set, so that comparisons were being made between Hastings and the whole of the county including Hastings information.

48

ROUGH SLEEPING ROLLOUT UPDATE

Michael Courts and Rebecca Jackson presented an update on the Rough Sleeping scheme rollout. It was stated that a bid for additional funding in 2019/20 had been submitted, and they were waiting to hear back if it had been successful.

The number of rough sleepers in town tends to fluctuate, who 49 being identified in the summer and 30 rough sleepers found at the end of September.

The project proposals sought to improve accessibility to services for rough sleepers, with access to support services, access to temporary accommodation, but especially, access to long-term housing solutions.

The proposal is to include:

- A new accommodation pathway.
- A multi-disciplinary team of health, mental health, social care, substance misuse and housing professionals.
- Expanded outreach and day centre services.
- Expanded Sussex Rough Sleeping Prevention Project.
- New CHAIN database.

By November the multi-disciplinary team would be in place, Rebecca Jackson has been appointed as the Senior Rough Sleeper Project Coordinator. The team would include a range of specialists including health, mental health and housing specialists.

	<p>The board were told that they had been working closely with the Seaview projects, who have been appointed as the Hub, Outreach and Housing Contractors. The day centre will now be open 5 days a week. The accommodation pathway has been organised for both Hastings and Eastbourne, with clients being referred from a Hub to the Assessment Centre, (which should be in place early November), and depending on an individual's needs will be referred onto the appropriate housing service, Hosing First, Private Rented Sector and Social Housing.</p>	
<p><u>49</u></p>	<p><u>NEXT MEETING DATE</u></p> <p>The next meeting date is on the 28 January 2019, at 10:00am at Muriel Matters House, Hastings.</p>	



Our position

Our vision, mission, values and priorities remain the same despite an ever more challenging financial position...

Our grant funding has reduced, from **£12.7 million in 2010/11 to just £3.4 million this year**, whilst our operational costs rise.

We need to address a budget deficit of **£1.8 million in 2019/20** and **£2.5 million in 2020/21**.



Funding shortfalls

What we said in February 2018:

£1.039m	in 2018/19 (to be funded from reserves)
£1.036m	in 2019/20
£1.894m	in 2020/21

What we are saying now (including Income Generation projections)

£964k	in 2018/19 (still a big call on reserves)
£1.8m	in 2019/20
£2.5m	in 2020/21
£1.8m	in 2021/22
£2m	in 2022/23



Financial headlines 2019/20

- Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) down (9% reduction from previous year);
- Revenue Support Grant (RSG) £0 down from £1.4 million; Business rates baseline up £988k;
- New Homes Bonus down 14.4% (down £93k);
- proposed Council Tax (Hastings element) £265.50 from £257.81 – £7.69 p.a. increase in Band D Council Tax (2.99%, the maximum allowed - less than 15p a week!);
- 1% on Council Tax raises £68k.



Revenue Support Grant – Government projection

Year	RSG (£000's)	Decrease	Percentage Change (Annual)	Decrease (Cumulative)	Percentage Change since 2015/16 (Cumulative)
2010/11	£9,040k				
2015/16	£3,727k				
2016/17	£2,835k	-£891k	-23.9%	-£891k	-23.9%
2017/18	£2,038k	-£797k	-28.1%	-£1,689k	-45.3%
2018/19	£1,542k	-£496k	-24.3%	-£2,185k	-58.6%
2019/20	£988k*	-£554k	-35.9%	-£2,739k	-73.5%

*Replaced by business rates



Challenges we face

- 73% plus cut in government grant 2010 – 2019;
- significant volatility in income and expenditure – business rates, factory/shop rents, development control, interest rates, Council Tax Reduction Scheme, etc.
- increased pressure on council services – for example, homelessness;
- continuing to meet the needs of our town and our deprived communities with less resources across the public sector;
- increased costs – salaries, inflation e.g. contracts;
- transition to a different council, doing different things, funded in different ways with less certainty.



A perfect storm ...

This year we had a big cut to our government grants, big additional demands on council services such as homelessness, unavoidable costs such as software upgrades, and the early termination of the waste contract.

These led to a budget gap of around £3m.

To cover this gap, we've made over £1m efficiency savings and service cuts, but we've also had to use £1.8m from reserves.



Calming the storm

We will have to make difficult and unpalatable decisions because of our financial position, but we will look to protect frontline services wherever possible.

To do this we will make sure our criteria for decisions prioritise the achievement of the objectives in our Corporate Plan.



2019/20 budget headlines

- £1.39m savings identified;
- growth of £347k identified;
- 14.6 FTE posts redundant (but only 1.9 FTE compulsory redundancies);
- 5 FTE new posts created;
- fees and charges increased (including parking);
- £1.4m additional costs of new waste and street cleaning services - seeking to reduce costs;
- using all £1.8m of Transition Reserves to balance budget;
- £11.5m potential investment in further income generation/regeneration schemes.



2019/20 budget headlines (2)

- Business Rate pilot – so-called ‘75% business rate retention’ (up from 50%);
- maintaining 100% support for most vulnerable households in Council Tax Reduction Scheme;
- need to retain reserves to protect council against the unexpected;
- awaiting outcome of Government’s 2019 Spending Review and the Fair Funding Review to inform financial position from 2020/21 onwards.



Examples of spending reductions (1)

Full list in Appendices K1 and K2 in the budget report

- cuts to the grounds maintenance budget (£117,000);
- reducing benefits staff following introduction of Universal Credit (£100,000);
- reduction in funding for White Rock Theatre as part of new contract (£116,000);
- delete Cultural Services Manager post (£64,000);
- reduce the Ranger Service by one post (£40,000);
- reduction in CCTV monitoring hours (£30,000).



Examples of spending reductions (2)

Full list in Appendices K1 and K2 in the budget report

- changing our marketing approach to focus on Hastings as part of 'Visit1066' (£80,000);
- cease funding the Herring Fair and Stade Saturdays (£30,000);
- cease Play Days in the park and target play work in deprived areas (£20,000);
- restructure service teams and delete vacant posts;
- efficiencies from moving services on-line (systems and people savings).



Summary of growth items

- Digital by Design – staff to complete the task of moving our processes and transactions on-line for improved customer service and efficiency savings;
- Microsoft licensing – Requirement to move to Windows 10;
- Bohemia Project Staff – to deliver the development programme;
- housing development officer – to help deliver housing sites;
- legal services – resource in place to support our programmes and income generation projects.



Capital programme – 2019/20

Includes:

• commercial property	£4.7m
• conversion of York Buildings	£602,000
• Disabled Facility Grants	£1.5m (tbc*)
• public realm	£50,000
• CPO empty properties	£100,000
• Pelham Arcade and upper road	£182,000*
• playground upgrade programme	£102,000*
• purchase of temporary accommodation	£1.86m

* = fully or partially externally funded



Capital programme – 2019/20

Includes:

• DSO street cleaning vehicles	£780,000
• DSO depot works	£256,000
• energy generation schemes	£1.7m
• Hastings Housing Company	£5m
• Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre	£662,000*
• coastal defence	£563,000*
• Buckshole and Shornden reservoirs	£71,000

* = fully or partly externally funded



Corporate plan

This year's plan is set out in terms of key programmes:

- things we have to do by law, or because we are contractually obliged;
- things we choose to do in order to enhance quality of life in the town.



Key programmes for 2019/20

1. waste services;
2. modernisation and digital efficiencies;
3. tackling homelessness and disadvantage;
4. generating income;
5. tackling climate change;
6. physical regeneration initiatives.



1: waste services

- new in-house street cleaning service launched, including flytip removal and bulky waste collection;
- new domestic waste and recycling contract



2: modernisation and digital efficiencies

- more online service provision for faster, easier transactions and reporting;
- improved online payments service;
- online self-service for benefits claims and changes of circumstances.



3: tackling homelessness and disadvantage

- a new Homelessness Strategy and implementation of our Rough Sleepers Initiative;
- phase 1 of Community-Led Local Development Programme delivered
- house purchases to reduce use of bed & breakfast accommodation.



4: generating income

- developing council-owned housing sites;
- energy generation;
- developing business cases for new initiatives (eg marketing the award-winning 'My Hastings' platform, 'monetising' the Enterprise Resource Package);
- commercial Property Purchase??



5: Tackling Climate Change

- investigating all potential sites for sustainable energy generation;
- reviewing our local plan to identify sites for wind energy and to introduce higher energy efficiency standards;
- working with partners towards a 'carbon-neutral Hastings'.



6: physical regeneration initiatives

- new Visitor Centre at the Country Park;
- Bohemia and White Rock regeneration;
- development of new start up business units
- West Marina site developed for housing & leisure;
- seafront and town centre improvements;



In conclusion...

we remain optimistic but we need to:

- increase the income we generate ourselves;
- continue to make additional savings and efficiencies;
- bid into external funds wherever appropriate;
- continue to transfer services on-line.

but ...

all transition reserves will be exhausted by funding the £1.8m deficit we face in 2019/20.

There's still a £2.5m deficit for 2020/21.



Thank you for coming

Questions?

The draft Corporate Plan and budget are available:

www.hastings.gov.uk

email responses to:

consultation@hastings.gov.uk

by close on 8 February 2019



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Report to: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 7 January 2019

Report Title: South East Local Enterprise Partnership Sector Support Fund

Report By: Simon Hubbard, Director of Operational Services

Purpose of Report

1. To brief members on the success of the Coastal Communities Group of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) in securing Sector Support funding to develop a prospectus/supplement to complement the SELEP Economic Strategy Statement (previously known as the Strategic Economic Plan) and the forthcoming Local Modern Industrial Strategy of £40k matched against funding from a number of local authorities.
2. To seek authority to procure the consultants to develop and deliver this work on behalf of the Coastal Group.

Recommendation(s)

1. **That the Director of Operational Services or his nominees are authorised to procure contractors to undertake the work of developing a SELEP Coastal Communities prospectus.**
2. **The Chief Legal Officer is authorised to sign the contractual relationship to secure this work.**
3. **That agreement is given to the acceptance of grant aid via SELEP/East Sussex County Council and contributions from other councils towards this work.**
4. **That authority is given for the expenditure for this project up to a maximum value of £60k.**

Reasons for Recommendations

The work proposed is undertaken on behalf of a wider body of local coastal authorities with the aim of increasing support for regeneration and investment in the SELEP coastal communities. The Economic Strategy Statement and Local Modern Industrial Strategy are likely to be highly influential on future SELEP priorities. Future UK Shared Prosperity Funds are likely to be informed by these documents.

The work is intended to lead to enhanced co-operation between coastal partners and the development of more strategic relationships with potential funders, such as Arts

Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery as well as the SELEP funding opportunities.

Background

1. SELEP is the Local Enterprise Partnership covering the local authorities within East Sussex, Kent, Essex, Southend, Thurrock and Medway. It has the responsibility for leading and co-ordinating economic growth within the region and is a channel for government funds in this respect. LEPs are intended by government to be business led however the role of local authorities, particularly upper tier or unitary authorities is very significant. This is scarcely surprising given the structural and strategic nature of much of what is delivered – for instance transport or skills training.
2. The SELEP structure is a federated one with arrangements for each of Kent/Medway, Essex/Southend/Thurrock and East Sussex. A central accountability board exists to assess bids for funding to ensure funds are directed at regionally appropriate and deliverable projects. A Strategic Board exists which is primarily intended to consider regional strategic issues and have oversight of the organisations work. The chair is appointed while the vice chairs are the chairs of the respected federated areas. Locally the federated structure is called Team East Sussex (TES) and is chaired by Graham Peters a local business representative. The membership of both the Strategic Board and the TES Board is attached for member interest. The Hastings Borough Council Leader is one of the TES representatives to the SELEP Strategic Board.
3. SELEP is the largest of any LEP and contains around 25% of its population along the coast. Whilst some of the coast is prospering there are a number of coastal locations including Hastings that are significantly underperforming economically.
4. The SELEP Coastal Community Group was established alongside others (like rural areas) and was initially led through Tendring, Thanet, Hastings, Dover and Rother councils. Hastings led work around private sector housing (which gained funding of £666,666) and support to creative business (funding of £2.34m) alongside Tendring and Thanet. The group commissioned a 2012 study by Sheffield Hallam University into the coastal economy looking at the position and this remains the best analysis available of economic and social performance.
5. It has become clear however that a more long term and strategic approach to coastal issues is required. There have been considerable successes but the fact remains that SELEPs coast contains many places that continue to underperform economically but also offer great potential for improvement – and to raise the overall performance of the SELEP region. Hastings, Rother and Tendring were approached by Adam Bryan the Chief Executive Officer of SELEP to see if the new SELEP Economic Strategy Statement (ESS) which was approved in December 2018 could be supplemented by specific focus on the potential for coastal growth and how that might be achieved. In order to finance this work a bid has been put together and is based upon a revenue grant of £40,000 Sector Support Fund from SELEP and £20,000 divided between local authority partners over 2018/19 and 2019/20. At the time of writing the report ten local authorities have indicated support for the scheme on which basis the cost would be £2,000 per council divided over two financial years.

6. The value of undertaking such work has been further increased by the announcement that LEPs are to lead the development of new local industrial strategies within their areas which will be aligned to the national modern industrial strategy. SELEP anticipates that it will begin this work in early 2019 to have the strategy in place by March 2020. There is therefore an opportunity to ensure that the needs and priorities for developing business and employment area is strongly reflected. The Chief Executive Officer of SELEP appeared before the House of Lords Select Committee on regenerating Seaside Towns and outlined the potential that exists for enhancing the region's performance through increasing the productivity and contribution of the coast.

The Challenge

7. The SELEP coast is remarkably diverse. The 2012 Sheffield Hallam study commissioned by the Coastal Group identified 35 communities (excluding estuary towns)
 - 4 large seaside towns with substantial problems (Clacton, Margate, Ramsgate, Hastings)
 - 4 Ports with a fair measure of difficulties (Harwich, Dover, Folkestone, Newhaven)
 - 3 smaller places with acute problems (Jaywick, Camber, Sheppey)
 - 2 large towns with lesser problem (Eastbourne, Southend)
 - 6 smaller towns generally during ok (Frinton/Walton, Whitstable, Herne Bay, Broadstairs, Deal, Bexhill)
 - A significant number of small generally more prosperous communities.

There have been improvements in many places. However the fact remains that the coast has a series of opportunities for joined up action and the use of resources. With some exceptions the coast has not closed the “performance” gap with the region or UK.

8. Not only is there significant diversity but these areas are:
 - Separated one from another. This presents the challenge of trying to improve several places in order to improve the performance of the coast as a whole.
 - Separate from the wider economy and market. These gaps are often physical, but also include skills, employment readiness and low land values to support development.
 - The level of deprivation on the coast remains high. On a Borough basis Hastings is the 2nd most deprived coastal community after Blackpool.
 - In addition 5 of the coastal Boroughs within this partnership have areas with category C assisted area status within them, recognised by the EU for their market failure, but also that they have the opportunity to combat this, via strategic intervention. These are in Hastings/Rother, Thanet, Tendring and Swale. There is an additional area in estuary based Medway.
9. The coast has recently excelled at culture. This has often been image changing and has attracted new visitors with higher spend and an influx of new residents. It has also produced a change of image for towns like Hastings, Margate, Folkestone

and Bexhill. However, this tends to be in limited areas (near seafronts with cheap Victorian property in many areas). This can mean:-

- Parts of towns are increasingly unaffordable to average wage earners.
 - Limited impact on much of the wider economy.
 - A view that these areas have been regenerated when in fact much remains to be done and what has been gained remains fragile.
10. The funds aimed directly at or often sought by coastal bidders often have strong cultural/artistic elements (Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund etc). These are very useful but neglect the need to create more diverse economies capable of generating wider prosperity.
 11. Sustained physical intervention inside coastal towns to create employment, education space and new housing is required and it needs to be of sufficient scale to have meaningful outcomes. Developments on the outskirts of conurbations have to be managed carefully to avoid damage to town centre economies.
 12. It is often challenging to do things on the coast. Land values are often very low (not universally). Premises are often expensive because old buildings require sensitive treatment. Building costs are often high because local companies can obtain contracts in the London area. Public realm and seaside Victoria infrastructure requires significant investment and upkeep, often constrained by conservation and heritage listing restrictions.
 13. Low levels of skills and high levels of health issues often mean difficulties for employers considering investment.
 14. There are insufficient resources to drive the public realm improvements required to support investment by both the tourist industry or companies looking at an attractive place for relocation. Members are also aware of the impact of 180° market in coastal towns.
 15. Set against all of these factors has been the very significant success of places like Hastings, Margate and Dover in attracting resources that have begun regeneration. The coast has much to offer the region and UK and can point to effective delivery structures and partnerships.

Description of Project

16. The particular challenges facing coastal economies have been well documented by various research studies and has shaped government policy through initiatives such as the Coastal Communities Fund, Coastal Communities Teams, and the current House of Lords Select Committee inquiry.
17. The new SELEP Economic Strategy Statement (ESS) makes reference to the need for a bespoke package of investment to support coastal economies; however the economic case for such a bespoke package has yet to be articulated.
18. Coastal areas have of course received benefits from existing programmes such as the Local Growth Fund & Growing Places Fund; however these funding streams favour interventions that deliver direct economic outputs at a large scale. They do

not favour SME-led economies nor address some of the wider issues referred to in the new ESS; particularly around place-shaping and the need to invest in the wider social infrastructure in order to attract private sector investment in capital, jobs and skills. Coastal communities need to grow SME business and encourage investment by larger businesses as the opportunities arise.

19. This project is intended to prepare a coastal reinforcement to the new ESS, to act as an investment prospectus that will articulate the economic opportunities and priorities specific to coastal areas and make a strategic case for investment, based on an evidence-led approach that demonstrates the potential economic outcomes, benefits and the comparative costs of investing on the coast compared to areas of the region better connected to transport and economic infrastructures.

20. Consultants will be appointed to:

- consider the current and future opportunities of the Coastal Communities and their potential purpose in the regional economy;
- analyse the opportunities and barriers to investment and growth;
- identify a number of key strategic interventions that may accelerate growth;
- recommend to SELEP a limited number of strategic priorities for action, identifying key outputs and outcomes that will enable success to be measured

It will also be suggested to partners that an examination of funding potential post Brexit is undertaken given the current significance of EU funds.

21. The project prospectus will be thematically led, focussing on those areas which are of particular relevance and important to coastal economies; building on economic research carried out by Sheffield Hallam University and other relevant studies. The research identified the variation in economic and social conditions along the coast and forms the basis for both prioritisation and a flexible approach.

Financial Implications

22. The following councils have indicated commitment to support the project

Rother	Maldon	Eastbourne
Southend	Dover	Hastings
Tendring	Thanet	Rochford
Lewes		

It is possible that confirmation of SELEP funding may increase participation as it is intended to extend involvement in steering the project to those who have contributed to it.

23. A full commission for the consultants will be developed and a steering group set up to co-ordinate it. Commissioning will be through the East Sussex Procurement Hub.

24. It is envisaged that the work will be commissioned by August 2019 and completed by the end of December 2019, subject to the views of the steering group and the speed with which funding is released. Because only upper tier authorities can directly receive funding for LEP funded projects East Sussex County Council will

act as project sponsor and Hastings Borough Council will receive the funding through them and report back upon progress.

Policy Implications

25. Risk – Funding from partner councils may not be paid. Tendring Council have supplied confirmation of agreements from nine councils. Hastings Borough Council has received direct confirmation from Rochford. HBC's share will be funded from within existing budgets. This is regarded as relatively low risk.
26. Organisational – The project will impose initial burdens on legal services while the agreements are made. The supporting of the work will be undertaken via the regeneration team and offers a substantial opportunity for learning and development for staff. It is anticipated External Funding Officer will assume management responsibility will assume responsibility for day to day work. Oversight will be from the Director and Assistant Director.
27. Once the project steering group has convened a formal project plan will be adopted reflecting the partnerships agreed way forward.

Timetable of Next Steps

28. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
SELEP Board Decision	Board Meeting	Approved 07/12/2018	SELEP
Grant approved by sponsoring upper tier council	Lead Member decision	January 22/01/2019	East Sussex County Council
Consultancy brief shared & approved by stakeholders	Approval of brief by funding partners. Set up Steering Group	February 2019	Steering Group/HBC
Tender Process and selection of consultant	Consultancy advertised by East Sussex Procurement Hub	End February 2019	HBC/East Sussex Procurement Hub
Award Contract	Offer letter made + contract signed	August 2019	HBC on behalf of Steering Group
Stage 1 completion – stakeholder engagement & research	Submission of outcomes to Steering Group	November 2019	Consultant
Second stage – draft recommendations & consultation	Agreement of draft report by Coastal Group. Cross reference with partners working	December 2019	Coastal Steering Group

	on draft Industrial Strategy.		
Final draft submitted to SELEP board for approval	Adoption by SELEP Board	January/February 2020	SELEP Board

This provisional timetable will be reviewed by the Steering Group early in 2019 and is therefore subject to revision.

Wards Affected

N/A

Implications

Relevant project tools applied? Yes – Project documentation will be put into place once the Project Steering Group has reviewed the commissioning documents and timetable.

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents. Report writers are encouraged to use links to existing information, rather than appending large documents.

Officer to Contact

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01424 451753

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Agenda Item 8

Regeneration Update for the LSP Board 29th April 2019

Bohemia Area

Funding for a comprehensive feasibility study to identify the scale and location of the new leisure and cultural facilities in the Bohemia area was agreed at the council's cabinet in March, and the tender for this work is now live. The work is expected to be completed by September.

Funding has been secured from the 'One Public Estate' programme to conduct a feasibility study to assess the viability and cost of relocating the 'make ready' element of the ambulance station to a larger site in the area. SECAMB is also considering the provision of an operational base for ambulance crews between calls and on break at the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service fire station in Bohemia Road.

Community Partnership Funding (CPF) 2019-2021

The Community Partnership Fund applications for 2019-2021 assessed by the CPF panel in November 2018 were approved by Cabinet in February 2019. £371,341 has been allocated across the two years to six organisations covering the following priorities: support for victims of domestic violence; housing, legal, welfare and debt advice; advice and support to organisations; rough sleepers outreach support; advice and support to migrant and newly settled communities.

Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART)

Is the local grants programme which supports the social and economic development of the most deprived areas within Hastings and Bexhill. The first Call for Projects ran from June – August 2018; 23 stage 1 applications were received, and nine were chosen to progress. Of those nine, four will be assessed between May – July 2019 and contracted June – August to commence September 2019.

The second Call for projects went live on 20 March and will run until 20 June 2019. Stage 1 Expressions of Interest are being invited to apply for funding. A third Call for projects will run from 20 September 2019 to 20 December depending on available funds. <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/chart/>

DESTI-SMART

'Delivering Efficient Sustainable Tourism with low carbon transport Innovations: Sustainable Mobility, Accessibility and Responsible Travel (or 'DESTI-SMART'). An Interreg Europe project led by Thessaloniki in Greece, with partners in Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Latvia, Hungary, Cyprus and the UK (Hastings Borough Council and Bournemouth University).

The objective of the programme is 'to improve the transport and tourism policies of EU destination regions, by integrating strategies for sustainable mobility, accessibility and responsible travel with sustainable tourism development.'

Through the programme the Council is exploring possible options for low carbon and sustainable transport along the seafront, to more effectively link The Stade in the Old Town and West St Leonards. For example, currently this journey is only possible by taking more than one bus. This project will enable us to consider pilot schemes, which if successful could be applied elsewhere.

Consultants are about to be appointed to carry out this work, fully funded by the EU. A local stakeholder group has been established.

Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

The FLAG Programme funds have now all been allocated (£640k) and 19 projects have been agreed. All of the projects will be completed by December 2019. Projects included an new Ice Maker for the fish market; the development of Hastings Fish Brand; a health training programme (Fit to Fish), two single use plastic reduction programmes and a business strategy and skills analysis for the Fishing Fleet.

Future High Street Fund bid

An expression of interest was submitted March 2019 for funding to work up a bid of £25m grant to transform the town centre. Nine specific challenges were identified including housing, empty properties, investment and connectivity and a vision developed to grow the centre as the major economic engine of the town to include anchors of all year round entertainment and a heritage attraction. First stage decision expected summer 2019, with full bid submission spring 2020 if successful at the first stage.

Hastings Museum update

LEGO® Innovation Studio

HBC and Creative Hut have signed a three year Service Level Agreement for the museum to host a LEGO® Education Innovation Studio. LEGO® Education uses hands-on learning to actively involve pupils in their own learning process. It supports a range of curricular outcomes but is particularly focused on computing, science, technology, engineering and maths, but can also be used across other areas of the curriculum. The Innovation Studio will 'go-live' from September, but the launch event and testing will be happening from May. During the summer holiday there will be a free weekly LEGO® makers club for 10-16 year olds.

LGBTQ+ = Equals me. A hop, a skip and a jump

Is a youth led project examining East Sussex's LGBTQ heritage and is funded by the Heritage Lottery fund. Working in partnership with East Sussex County Council, De La Warr Pavilion, Towner Art Gallery and Charleston to work with young LGBTQ+ people as they explore the histories of LGBTQ+ communities in East Sussex over the past 100 years. The outcome will be an exhibition and events co-curated by the young people. The exhibition will tour schools across the county.

Local Growth Fund (LGF)

A successful application to SELEP's LGF round 3b will enable £0.5 million to go towards a £2.7m project to build 28 new units for small and start-up businesses on vacant land in Sidney Little Road, expected to generate up to 74 jobs. Design work is underway with construction scheduled for January 2020 and handover expected by March 2021

'Lower Tier' plans

The council is finalising the funding agreement with Homes England under the Local Authority Accelerated Construction programme to take forward the residential development of the Lower Tier site at the rear of Bexhill Road. The grant, which is up to £6.9m, is conditional on using an agreed level of modern methods of construction and achieving a higher rate of pace than a traditional housing scheme. The development will produce a range of outcomes, including circa 190 new homes, 40% affordable housing, employment and training opportunities, as well as improvements to sports/recreation facilities. The grant will be used to prepare the site and pay for any flood remediation measures necessary for development to take place. Early consultation with key stakeholders will take place once the grant agreement has been concluded.

The West Marina site

The West Marina site is owned by Hastings Borough Council and has been largely vacant for over 30 years, following the closure of the former lido. In line with the Local Development Framework the council is looking to see the site developed to provide a mixed use development (residential and commercial). The site is one of the few remaining significant re-development sites on the seafront. The Council is seeking a high quality innovative design with particular regard to sustainability.

At Cabinet on 4 March 2019 it was agreed to enter into a long lease (250 years) with County Gate/Sunley (the developers). The Council's Agents are in the process of finalising the Heads of Terms with the developers and once agreed our legal advisers will start drawing up the agreement.

Once a lease is in place the developers will commence with their detailed studies and surveys. We understand they will establish a website for the site/their proposals and will be responsible for carrying out consultation on the detail of the plans, a pre-application planning forum and other consultation sessions.

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11 MARCH 2019

42. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Attendance:

Simon Hubbard (chair)
Chantal Lass
Chris Gibbs (Minutes)
Ian Sycamore
Prannesh Datta
Jacki White
Inspector Jon Hartley
Steve Manwaring
Carole Dixon
Vanessa Biddiss
Sarah Feather

Apologies for absence from:

Cllr Peter Chowney - HBC
Chief inspector Sarah Godley (substituted by Inspector Jonathan Hartley)
Jim Sharpe – East Sussex College Hastings
Richard Watson – CCG
John Williams – Sea Change Sussex
Caroline Evans – ESCC
Stuart Gallimore – ESCC (substituted by Sarah Feather)
Dr John Smith - UOB

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

44. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2018 be approved as a true record

45. SUSSEX POLICE UPDATE - VERBAL UPDATE

Inspector John Hartley presented an update on Sussex Police. He stated that they were entering into a positive period for the force following on from the previous 5 years

11 MARCH 2019

of budget cuts. Additional funding was being allocated for up to 15 new PCSOs for Hastings and Rother (although the final figure is not yet confirmed) and a new focus on preventative and community policing.

Their key challenges and performances are the same as before and they are looking at a control strategy around organised crime and exploitation of the vulnerable.

There is a lot of work around county lines which are moving from London to Brighton and then from Brighton to Hastings. There has been a decrease in burglary dwellings but a rise in domestic abuse crimes. Reported crime rates for weapons and gun crime are low. There is a national project looking at knife crime.

Main concerns for the police are exploitation of the vulnerable and children and the increase in what are deemed more socially acceptable drugs such as cocaine. They are looking at educating and raising understanding about these drugs and the exploitation surrounding them in the same way as heroin although the exploitation is different.

Partners asked questions around the active 'county lines' in Hastings and were advised that the number is less than 5 at the moment. This is a reduction compared to previous figures of 12. However this could be a reflection of 4-5 criminal gangs having 'secured the market' locally.

Partners discussed the importance of working together in a structured way to pool resources and to make sure that the resources we have are used to reduce the threats of harm and risk to our more vulnerable communities.

It was suggested that a partnership meeting is convened which brings together partners including and chaired by Cllr Colin Fitzgerald – partners to include are ESCC (children's services), the voluntary & community sector (Optivo, Orbit) and HBC and the Police and the new drug & alcohol service provider. Inspector Jon Hartley said that there is currently no date for the recruitment of the new PCSOs but will be in the new financial year.

46. FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HASTINGS TOWN CENTRE - PRESENTATION

Pranesh Datta, Economic Development Manager for Hastings Borough Council presented an update on the future high street fund and the draft expression of interest for Hastings Town Centre. (see attached briefing note and proposed map of the area)

The government launched this fund in the beginning of January with 460 towns eligible to apply for it. Bids can be up to £25m but are encouraged to be between £5m-£10m. It is to support town centres and more specifically struggling town centres.

The total fund is £675m for struggling town centres to help them in the current environment.

HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EDG

11 MARCH 2019

Hastings town centre is doing relatively well, we have forty national outfits located in the town centre this is important for Hastings as it drives and gives opportunities for local jobs.

We are going for something different apart from retail, a place where people want to live and 'hang out'. We are 'playing on' our historical roots to change the town centre from just retail to a destination. National retailers are struggling and other retailers are at risk so they are reconsidering their position, approaches and business plans. We have 60 empty stores out of the 540 total which works out at around 12% which isn't high as compared to other towns.

We are looking at building capacity to physically transform the town centre. We are looking at new forms of housing that support the most vulnerable to those with expendable income. Need to work on the digital transformation of the town to create more technologically friendly town centre that helps businesses promote themselves. A fibre optic network will be essential for this.

The loss of the University of Brighton creates a new challenge for the town centre. We are developing ideas around Hastings being the point in England where English culture changed forever following the Norman invasion. Therefore, we could perhaps look at a museum themed around the change in English culture following the Norman invasion and migration.

The bid needs to be submitted by the 22nd of March. There are challenges in the town centre around large empty buildings. The University of Brighton leaving was a large disappointment and other large vacant buildings include the Observer Building and Queensbury house. We need to re-think how we are going to use these large non retail buildings. Whether we win this bid or not these challenges will still remain so it is good to be thinking about it now. Simon Hubbard added that the town centre needs to provide shops for local people; economically we are a poorer town and have more affluent shopping centres in the Old Town and St Leonards.

There are still a number of unknowns that may still impact on the town centre including uncertainty around Debenhams future and the HS1 high speed rail link. We need to look at repurposing large buildings that may no longer be suitable for retail as the way people are shopping is changing. The government has pledged money to towns post Brexit we need to be clear about our ideas and develop a new vision for the town centre.

Partners discussed how developing the town centre as a destination with shopping as a bi-product of something else would most likely be the strongest approach. There are currently very little interpretative navigation about Hastings. Partners also discussed how some retailers are changing their size or shape and the way they do business. Mainly moving into a pre-order system where the product is not on the shelves but can be ordered in, mirroring online shopping habits. It was commented that Amazon are opening high street shops so even the online only businesses deem that physical store fronts are still relevant. Super outlets no longer seem to be working but street outlets do allow for better customer engagement.

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Leisure facilities are being considered but there are many organisations developing them at the moment that would directly compete with anything we would build and /or develop. Priory Meadow are currently applying for planning permission for a gym in the shopping centre. Deliverability and investment are important to these plans.

Partners discussed whether this bid would help independent traders, but were told that this fund is not for this purpose and there are other funds available that can help with this. Small independent stores are becoming more popular and trends are changing. It was also noted that Banks are moving a lot of their services online and their future on the high street is uncertain. Questions were asked around who the town would be attracting if it is revitalised. It was commented that more affordable housing for younger people were needed. The town centre will need to be adaptable to be able to change to people's interests as they change.

47. HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL - ENERGY PLANS - VERBAL UPDATE

Chantal Lass (Sustainability Manager for Hastings Borough Council) gave an update on the energy generation plans of the council. She said that there was a motion passed at council by the leader for Hastings to be carbon neutral by 2030 or 2050 at the latest and to aim for the borough to become more energy self-sufficient through local sustainable energy generation.

An update was provided about the proposed ground mounted solar project in the Country Park. The Council will be commissioning a number of studies to inform its decision about pursuing this project. Formal advice will be sought from Natural England and a business case developed for a Cabinet decision in the autumn this year.

This and other proposed renewable energy projects meets 3 key drivers for the Council

- Reducing the towns greenhouse gas emissions
- Playing a leadership role in sustainable energy projects
- Helping to address fuel poverty and create local energy

Simon Hubbard added that Hastings Borough Council are reviewing the Local Plan and its associated policies to make sure going forward we can enable as much local energy generation as possible. There is going to be some very interesting debates about how we power the town into the future and how this may visibly affect the town. It will be important to hear everyone's opinion.

Partners discussed how to broaden involvement on the process of the local plan. It was commented that younger peoples voices and planning policy are both important in this process.

48. BREXIT - 'NO DEAL BREXIT' ALL PARTNER DISCUSSION - RISKS OF A NO DEAL BREXIT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS FOR HASTINGS

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Simon Hubbard led a discussion on the impact of a no deal Brexit, highlighting the key risk issues the Council had been considering from a service perspective, as well as wider transport issues that may be affected by delays at the regional ports and airports. Transport and congestion is likely to be an issue – plans are in place for the Kent ports (Folkestone and Dover) Newhaven and Portsmouth. The main issues are the ability to ‘stack’ large volumes of lorries.

Other issues include consideration of the supply chain for our services that are reliant on imports e.g. maintenance arts for the crematorium

As a town and community we need to look at retaining our language schools and making sure our young visitors continue to feel welcome.

Simon advised there may be added pressure on our environmental health team as they will potentially need to certify the fishing fleet exports such as cuttlefish and crab to France and Belgium. There may be fuel shortages so we have prioritised services that will still need to commute into the office.

It is organisations such as East Sussex County Council, the NHS and Sussex police who will be the most impacted.

Inspector Jon Hartley added that Sussex police had significant plans in place. There is a mutual aid agreement with Kent which will mean remaining staff will be working 12 hour shifts to provide cover. Community policing is likely to suffer as a result. There are concerns nationally about a rise in hate crime, especially in places like London, where further mutual aid support is in place. The police are monitoring social media etc for ‘Brexit tones’ and hate crime. Annual leave has been cancelled and the Government have looked at military assets should there be a no deal Brexit.

Partners discussed the spike in vulnerability locally, and that some organisations are starting to identify concerns including The Links project and the one stop shop. Concerns were raised about the levels of hardship already being witnessed by local charity food organisations; there is a huge volume of food being distributed to the local community and local hardship is likely to increase.

49. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Manwaring advised that Hastings Voluntary Action have secured ‘Inclusive and Active Volunteering funding’ (£50k) and are one of five national projects following a very competitive process where 200 organisations bid for funding.

Carole Dixon advised Comic relief have filmed some of the work the Educations Future Trust are doing with local young people. The film will be shown on Comic relief night and is available to watch on their website.

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Simon Hubbard advised subject to confirmation the Council have been granted £500k to develop incubator units.

50. ITEM FOR INFORMATION - EAST SUSSEX DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE - RECOMMISSIONING UPDATE - BRIEFING NOTE TO FOLLOW

The tender process is now completed and the successful bidder was Change Grow Live (CGL) <https://www.changegrowlive.org/>

The new contract will begin on 1st June 2019.

The transition period has now begun (as of Friday 8th March). Local open days are being organised and details will be available shortly. Individual meetings will be arranged as discussed.

East Sussex county council substance misuse commissioner and a representative of the treatment provider will attend the LSP meeting on 29th April 2019.

Agenda Item 10

Meeting Notes

Wednesday 20 March 2019
Bexhill Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea

IN ATTENDANCE

ESSP Members present:

Mark Andrews
Cllr Bill Bentley
Olivia Carroll
Carole Dixon
Cllr David Elkin
Cllr Kim Forward
Jane Hartnell
Steve Manwaring (Chair)
Cllr Carl Maynard
Petrina Mayson
Graham Peters
Nicola Walker

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
East Sussex County Council
Sussex Police
Speak Up
East Sussex County Council
Hastings Borough Council
Hastings Borough Council
Speak Up Representative
Rother District Council
Action in Rural Sussex
South East Local Enterprise Partnership
Sussex Police and Crime Commission

Also in attendance (official observers):

Gill Cameron-Waller
Sarah Feather
Jo Harper
Becky Shaw
Alison Spring
Andrew Palmer (speaker)
Jon Wheeler (speaker)

Wealden District Council
East Sussex County Council
Eastbourne and Lewes Councils
East Sussex County Council
Rother District Council
Hastings Borough Council
East Sussex County Council

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Keith Glazier
Cllr Elayne Merry
Michael Turner
Andrea Saunders
Ashley Scarff
Cllr Bob Standley
Keith Stevens
Dawn Whittaker

East Sussex County Council
Lewes District Council
Environment Agency
Probation Service
East Sussex CCGs
Wealden District Council
Sussex Associations of Local Councils
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

NOTES

1) Welcome, introductions and Apologies

Steve Manwaring welcomed ESSP members, delegates, observers, guests and speakers to the meeting and apologies were given.

2) Urgent items of business

There were no urgent items of business.

3) Notes of the meeting held on 15 January 2019 and Matters Arising

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The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, with a minor amendment, and actions from the meeting were complete.

4) Nominations for Chairperson and proposal to review the ESSP

Steve explained, in Cllr Glazier's absence, that the position of Chair is now open to everyone. Partners were invited to make nominations and Cllr Glazier, Becky and Steve are happy to talk to anyone if they have any questions about the position. Steve reminded the group that any nominations can be sent to essp@eastsussex.gov.uk by Friday 3rd May 2019. The new Chair will take up the post after this year's Assembly.

ACTION: Partners are invited to make nominations for the ESSP chair by Friday 3rd May.

5) Housing update – Andrew Palmer Chair of the East Sussex Housing Officers Group

Steve introduced Andrew Palmer to provide the update on housing across East Sussex. Andrew told the group that there have been a number of significant legislative and strategic developments nationally which continue to have an impact on local approaches to housing and homelessness. Andrew explained that the Homelessness Reduction Act presents both challenges and opportunities. Local authorities are required to work with people at risk of homelessness at an earlier stage and provide a more intensive level of support to each applicant. The steps the council and the individual will take to address their housing situation are set out in a Personalised Housing Plan (PHP), which must be reviewed regularly. So far, 1,323 PHPs have been issued across the county.

The Act also introduced a new Duty to Refer people at risk of homelessness to their housing authority for certain public bodies (including adult social care, prisons and the DWP), to ensure assistance was given at an earlier stage.

Andrew said that the number of homeless households in East Sussex has increased by 122% over the past 5 years and this is compared to a national increase of 9%. The number of rough sleepers across the county has increased by 208%, compared to a 70% rise nationally. Andrew highlighted that people are requiring temporary accommodation for longer and one family is costing a local authority £50k a year to temporarily house and it is unlikely that an alternative that meets the family's needs will be found for the next five years. Hastings now has the highest rate of rough sleeping outside of London, it used to be Brighton but their rough sleeping numbers have been reducing. Andrew said that reasons for homelessness and rough sleeping have not changed but more people are requiring support than previously and indicated this was most likely down to welfare changes.

Andrew pointed out that the opportunity to refresh and enhance existing multi-agency approaches to tackling homelessness was a strength. Local housing authorities are trying to address demand by setting up housing companies to address the issue of housing supply and there have been some successful partnership bids for money. However, the grants and bid funding does not solve the problem as these funding streams are only for short periods of time. Carol Dixon, Speak Up, agreed that the partnership approach had delivered some of the best solutions as well as acting as a model for other pieces of work.

Becky Shaw, ESCC, explained that even the County Council feel the impact of homelessness and are supporting families to stay in homes where they would otherwise be considered to have made themselves 'intentionally homeless'.

Petrina Mayson, AiRS and Speak Up, thanked Councils for supporting the Community Land Trusts in identifying sites for building.

Questions were raised about the amount of former military personnel looking for accommodation and being given priority. Andrew was not aware this was a particular issue in East Sussex. Steve asked if more people living independently was becoming an issue and Andrew responded by saying that the disabled Facilities Grant is available to people but it was difficult to keep pace with demand. Steve also raised the issue about the increase in deposits and rent in advance for the private rented sector, and how this was pricing people out of the market. Andrew said that there are lots of good landlords and they were not actively discriminating but given the demand they didn't need to engage with people in receipt of welfare benefits. Andrew explained that East Sussex is piloting a 'guarantee scheme' which includes helping tenants to maintain the tenancy.

Mark Andrews, ESFRS, asked if there were any lessons to be learnt from Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) on reducing rough sleeping numbers and Andrew explained that on speaking to BHCC there was nothing new that BHCC had tried but potentially the interventions implemented over a number of years were having an impact.

6 Transport update – Jon Wheeler

Steve introduced Jon Wheeler, ESCC, to provide this update. Jon began by providing an update on a range of strategic and local transport projects. Jon emphasised the link between transport and delivering the County Council's key priority, driving sustainable economic growth.

Jon then spoke about the last twelve months of work in the following areas:

- Strategic Roads and Major Road Network – Jon said that the Highways Agency were progressing work with smaller scale improvements for the A27 beginning in 2019/20. Jon said the work was expected to take around 2 years and although the improvements were welcome they did not address the issues between Polegate and Lewes. Jon spoke about a study into a new dual carriage way and a decision on this from the Department for Transport (DfT) could be published this autumn for works from 2020-2025. For the Highways Agency improving the economic connectivity of the A21 was a high priority. The DfT are offering funding between £20m-£50m for major A road projects that could include bypasses, road widening and smart technology. Funding would be available to those that could contribute 15% of the cost of the project.
- Rail – Jon told the Partnership that there would be physical changes at Ashford International into the marsh link. Design work is coming to a conclusion and there is a signalling assessment taking place, final costs and designs are expected in May 2019. Jon explained that the South Eastern Franchise would likely receive a 12 week extension while DfT evaluated proposals. Brighton mainline was undergoing work to improve its resilience and there is remodelling of East Croydon platforms is ongoing and there will be some re-signalling work between Lewes and Newhaven. Jon explained that this would result in more closures but the service would then be more reliable.
- Aviation – Jon explained that Gatwick was looking to increase capacity at the airport by using the emergency runway; a master plan would be published later this year. Funding is in the process of being signed off for a new station concourse. A Government Green Paper is expected on a new aviation strategy to take the UK into 2050 and beyond, with a final White Paper in mid-2019.
- Transport for the South East - Sub National Transport Body – Jon highlighted that Cllr Glazier, ESCC, chaired this Group and the transport strategy would be published by

December this year. Jon pointed out there would be a formal consultation period on the strategy.

- Local Transport – Jon highlighted the following areas for work during 2019/20:
 - Infrastructure to unlock jobs and homes
 - Local Transport improvements and pipeline projects
 - Regenerating town centres
 - Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan and Active Access for Growth programme

At the end of Jon's presentation Steve asked if the County's infrastructure was ready for electronic vehicles. Jon said that there was a close eye being kept on the demand for electric charging points, however, there was a challenge as to whether the County Council should be a facilitator or a provider. Given that this new technology was changing at pace it was best to 'wait and see' what developed so that the best technology could be supported.

7 Round table discussion

7a Spring Budget

Steve invited Becky to begin this discussion; Becky said that the Chancellor had confirmed that the government will hold a Spending Review which will conclude alongside the Budget. It will cover areas including social care, local government, schools, police, defence, and the environment. This will set departmental budgets, including 3 year budgets for resource spending, if an EU exit deal is agreed. Becky explained that successful lobbying had enabled the County Council to receive some 'one off' funding for this year. However, planning on a year to year basis was difficult to make plans for future years.

Becky also mentioned the extra funding to tackle serious violence and knife crime, with £100 million available to police forces in the worst affected areas in England and Wales. The cash is to be used for police overtime and to fund new 'Violent Crime Reduction Units' to help respond to the increase.

Finally, Becky said that the government has pledged to deliver 30,000 more affordable homes to tackle the UK's housing crisis. £717 million will be 'unlocked' from the Housing Infrastructure Fund - the 2017 grant introduced to invest in new build homes - to unlock up to 37,000 more affordable homes.

Jane Hartnell, Hastings Borough Council, agreed that the year on year planning was hard for Councils to make any concrete plans. Funding that was offered for 12 months leads to uncertainty about how long projects can continue.

Cllr Elkin said it was important to recognise the extra money that the County Council did receive and the successful lobbying work that took place to secure it. One off funding does not allow for planning but the money is welcome.

7b) Brexit

Steve began by saying that he had never known such a period of uncertainty and it was likely to continue for some time yet. Steve then introduced Becky to give an update on any preparations. Becky explained that the Sussex Local Resilience Forum was ready for any short term interventions and this was well rehearsed. Becky also mentioned the Local Authority Regional Information Hub that works with 74 authorities to pass information and feedback both

into and out of the Government, she said it seemed that there were three options going forward:

- 1) Leaving the EU with no deal on 29 March
- 2) Short extension beyond the 29 March
- 3) Longer extension before anything is agreed

Becky also highlighted the EU settlement scheme will be open fully by 30 March 2019.

Mark Andrews explained that the Fire Service is training tactical staff to respond to any emergencies if needed, this includes a full time communications team. Mark also told the group that there is a strategic group of senior staff meeting every day to take the temperature of the current situation. This is linked to other Fire and Rescue Services such as Hampshire and Kent. Mark concluded that in terms of preparation the Fire Service is where it wants to be, however, that did not make managing the ambiguity any easier.

8) Review of the ESSP

Steve introduced this item by reminding the Partnership that the previous review carried out in 2015 highlighted that there was still merit in the Partnership. It was now time to test if that was still the case.

Steve reminded the Partnership of the questions that had been circulated in advance:

- 1) Given the changing landscape and the other countywide partnerships how does the ESSP ensure it adds most value and avoid duplication?
- 2) With the Assembly event attracting most interest and attendance, should we make this the only formal ESSP event and invest in its purpose and productivity?
- 3) How do we ensure we maintain a coherent overview of issues and partnerships so that gaps are spotted and addressed?
- 4) Is there value in offering ad hoc opportunities for partners' to engage, in a range of formats, about any relevant or topical issue? These events could be initiated by any partner and could be supported by the ESSP administration who will seek to provide a suitable format, location and invite appropriate partners. These events could replace the regular, formal ESSP meetings.

Steve explained that the Probation Service and Environment Agency had submitted their responses in advance of the meeting, as they were unable to attend today, and the NHS have asked for a conversation with Steve as they were also unable attend the meeting.

Gill Cameron-Waller, Wealden District Council, said that having the big picture view is important, as is exchanging views across organisations. Gill felt that the ESSP should continue in some way but agreed the shape of it needs to change.

Cllr Maynard, Rother District Council, felt that recently there had been less of a turnout of Council Members attending the ESSP. He agreed that there was value in partnerships but unsure if the ESSP was still fit for purpose in its current format. Cllr Maynard felt that the Assembly was a good opportunity to engage with Members but felt the Partnership could consider ways of working together without meeting up.

Cllr Elkin, ESCC, spoke about the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership that he attends on behalf of the County Council; he recognised the changes there that meant they focus on one theme for each year. Cllr Elkin also said it was important that people knew why they were attending the meeting and what its purpose was.

Graham Peters, Team East Sussex, also queried if the ESSP was the most effective way of sharing information, whilst recognising that engagement was important for all around the table. Graham felt that whether the dissemination of information was through a conference or meetings or other formats the most appropriate method might depend on the subject.

Jane Hartnell, Hastings Borough Council (HBC), explained that the Hastings and St Leonard's Local Strategic Partnership was also reviewing its purpose. Some of the information at the ESSP was already known to some partners but there might still be value in focussing on a topic such as climate change to have a wider discussion and joined up actions.

Cllr Forward, HBC, thought that understanding what people take away from the meeting would help make its value clearer.

Becky, ESCC, said it was important the ESSP made the best use of people's time and that the Partnership had been good at spotting the issues that fall through the gaps. The ESSP had been able to raise a voice on behalf of the county. However, Becky said the Partnership needs to remain current and fit for purpose.

Petrina Mayson, Action in Rural Sussex and Speak Up, felt the ESSP added huge value and it enabled her to listen to a breadth of information that could be passed down into the voluntary sector and it would be a huge loss to the Voluntary Sector to not get that information.

Probation Service Response

There may be more specific areas which would benefit from greater focus on an ad hoc basis in response to emerging issues: a key maybe for example offender accommodation, homelessness and rough sleeping which requires in our view a multi-agency strategic and operational response?

It may therefore be better to no longer have a specific ESSP given the other effective working arrangements in place?

Environment Agency Response

The ESSP has provided some opportunity to network. It has been interesting to have a wider view of the matters that my partners are struggling with. It provided the opportunity to bang the drum for the environment and the ESSP have always seemed engaged.

There are other forums for the Environment Agency to engage (especially Team East Sussex and the new Environment sub group) and the Local Resilience Forum (Sussex-wide) so the EA is ambivalent about the ESSP continuing – but would be keen to see ad-hoc events and other opportunities to network with directors of ESCC and other councils.

ACTION:

- i) Sarah to arrange conversation with Steve, Ashley Scarff and Jessica Britton to discuss to discuss the review.**
- ii) Steve to meet with Sarah to work up a proposal to be circulated before the next meeting.**

9) Any other business

Assembly - Steve asked the Partnership to consider the theme of Inward Investment as the ESSP Assembly theme. It would cover things such as

- Opportunistic funding – whereby the Government may announce a fund to bid for a specific project such as knife crime etc.
- Pipeline approach – having bids in the ‘pipeline’ ready to submit when the right opportunity arises.
- Crowdfunding - a way of raising finance by asking a large number of people each for a small amount of money. Becky also mentioned that Crowdfunder have new partners Natwest Back Her Business - this supports women in business to raise money for their businesses through crowdfunding, and Natwest will also provide free coaching, and mentoring.

The Partnership felt this would be a good topic and it was agreed that a draft programme would be circulated.

ACTION: Sarah and Steve to meet to work up a draft programme and circulate to the Partnership.

10) Dates of future meetings

Wednesday 10th July 2019 - 10.00am-12.00pm– International Tennis Centre, Eastbourne
Tuesday 5th November 2019-10.00am-12.00pm Court Room, Eastbourne Town Hall, Eastbourne
Thursday 16th January 2020 -10.00am-12.00pm TBC

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS –

Item	Action
4	All Partners are invited to make nominations for the ESSP chair by Friday 3rd May 2019
8i	Sarah Feather to arrange conversation with Steve Manwaring, Ashley Scarff and Jessica Britton to discuss the review.
8ii	Steve Manwaring and Sarah Feather to work up a proposal for a revised way of working for the ESSP and share with the Group.
9	Steve Manwaring and Sarah Feather to meet to work up a draft programme and circulate to the Partnership.

A copy of all the presentations from the meeting can be found on the ESSP website (<http://www.essp.org.uk/Meeting-papers-and-reports>).

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