

HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

BRIEFING NOTE ON REGENERATION

Employability & Apprenticeships

- Employability Forum met December 2014 to review the progress of the Own Grown initiative and its priorities for 2015, Local Economic Partnership/EU funding opportunities, and the Hastings Into Work partnership.
- Academies Employability Action Plan – Heads have agreed to sign Academies/Business engagement charter. Dates agreed for CV/interview speed dating sessions with pupils and business representatives.
- Two Business Breakfasts held in Old Town and St Leonards with 30 attendees in total. Workshop on social media, funding finder and commitments to pledge to Own Grown. Further breakfast planned in January for Town Centre, linking in with Business Improvement District work.
- Two sector-based Creative Cafes delivered in partnership with Culture Shift with a total of 135 Academy pupils engaged. Pupils work in a café style setting with businesses on practical tasks relating to a particular sector (eg drafting a week's staff rota for a hotel). A further two creative cafes are planned for spring/summer terms.
- Own Grown Challenge – 2,014 pledges achieved on 20th November 2014. As of 5th December currently tracking at 104%.HBC taking a leading role in managing the project, including 1-2-1 brokering, social media/publicity
- Own Grown 2015 target – as a partner in county-wide apprenticeship challenge You're Hired: East Sussex – 500 apprenticeship pledges from businesses, 500 pledges from young people who wanted assistance to be ready to take up an apprenticeship across 5 boroughs over 5 months. Alongside this, Own Grown will continue to actively engage and broker other types of pledges (such as work experience, work with schools, mentoring etc.) with businesses.
- January – July 2015 Own Grown will audit/measure and evidence the impact of the previous 2 years' of pledges for the purpose of potentially bidding for European funding for 2016.

Evening and Night Time Economy and Student Town

- Preparations are under way for a 'Hastings Exchange' forum event at the University of Brighton to engage with local business. It is jointly organised with HBC to discuss the broad topic of making the most of Hastings as a University Town. This will target the service economy including the evening and night time offer and will address key issues to promote what the University can offer the local community and businesses in terms of opportunities to engage. Student voices will also be heard, and experience will be drawn from similar seaside towns where a university campus has integrated well. It will be held in March 2015.

- Hastings Town Centre Management and HBC have held three meetings with town centre businesses to progress proposals to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) in the area. A steering group has been established, chaired by David Padmore (McDonalds franchise), which is meeting monthly. A survey has also been distributed to 235 businesses and an awareness raising session is being held at Sussex Coast College Hastings at a business breakfast 8-10am January 30th 2015.

Hastings Community Network Update

CULTURE EXCHANGES 6th October 2014 Jerwood Gallery, Hastings

Culture reflects our way of life, providing a lens through which we see ourselves and is central to the way we develop a sense of identity within our community. It's a vehicle for self expression and creativity as well as an important contributor to health, a sense of wellbeing, and inclusion in community life. Forty Six people attended the event, sixteen from arts organisations, twenty four from the voluntary and community sector and six from the statutory sector came together to explore the value of culture and its potential impact on health and wellbeing, social wellbeing and inclusion, education, economic regeneration and tourism. It also provided a space for discussion and exchanges between community groups and arts organisations and explore opportunities to work together.

Community Cohesion will be the focus of the next HCN event in March. This is being planned in partnership with HBC.