

Hastings & St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership

July 18th 2011

Present:**Statutory Sector**

Councillor Jeremy Birch	Hastings Borough Council
Barbara Deacon	East Sussex County Council
Philip Halstead	Hastings & St Leonards Excellence Cluster
Cllr Matthew Lock	Hastings Borough Council
Roy Mawford	Hastings Borough Council
George O'Reilly	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Janak Patel	Sussex Coast College Hastings
Jane Porter	Amicus Horizon
DCI Laurence Taylor	Sussex Police
Richard Watson	East Sussex PCTs

Community & Voluntary Sectors

Carole Bailey	Greater Hollington Association
Laurence Bell	Hastings Community Network
Ron Bennett	Ore Valley Forum
Sylvia Bennett	Hastings Community Network
Julie Eason	Hastings Community Network
Claire Francis	Hastings Community Network
Mel Bonney-Kane	Hastings Community Network
Ken Maitland	Gensing and Central St Leonards Forum
Marc Turczanski	Hastings Community Network

Business Sector

John Hodges	Chamber of Commerce
Clive Galbraith	Chamber of Commerce

In Attendance:

Shabana Bayjou	Hastings Borough Council
Jane Hartnell	Hastings Borough Council
Simon Hubbard	Hastings Borough Council
Jane Jackson	Hastings Borough Council
Jenny Ling	Hastings Borough Council
Andrew Palmer	Hastings Borough Council
Dr Tariq Rajbee	Hastings Community Network

Apologies for absence were received from:

Robin Deane	Amicus Horizon
Diana Grice	East Sussex PCTs
Peter Higgins	ESFRS
Steve Manwaring	HVA
Robin Smith	Sussex Police

<p>16</p>	<p><u>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Barbara Deacon was in attendance representing ESCC. Cllr Lock who previously represented County Council on the Board will now be a Hastings Borough Council representative in his new capacity as Leader of the Opposition. ESCC are considering who the replacement political representative will be on the LSP.</p> <p>Although the PCT will continue until 2013, additional Health representation may well be needed in future, for example from the new Clinical Commissioning Groups.</p> <p>The Town Conference will give the opportunity to discuss any potential revision of the membership list.</p>	
<p>17</p>	<p><u>NOTIFICATION OF URGENT ITEMS</u></p> <p>Clive Galbraith raised the issue of the Hastings to Bexhill Link Rd (HBLR). A consultation process is still open. As it is competing against a number of other national transport projects a suggestion was made to indicate the LSPs continued support for the development.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to send a letter registering the Boards continued support of the link Road to County Council</p>	<p>Cllr Birch</p>
<p>18</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>Ken Maitland declared that he is a landlord in the private rented sector with reference to agenda item 6.</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>(a) RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2011 be approved as a true record.</p> <p><u>(b) MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>(4) Education: A letter from the LSP to the Schools Forum urging them to reconsider their decision to redistribute the Excellence Cluster funding was sent on May 3rd.</p> <p>(5) Equality and Human Rights Charter: The launch of the Equalities Charter will now take place on September 26th to coincide with the Town Conference event.</p> <p>(7) Asylum and Immigration: A meeting with the UK Borders Agency has taken place to discuss the reduction of resources to address asylum and immigration issues and the resulting impact on the town. An emergency coordination meeting has been convened and an update on progress will be available at the October Board meeting.</p>	
<p>20</p>	<p><u>LDF CONSULTATION</u></p> <p>Jane Jackson gave a presentation to the Board outlining the progress of the Local Development Framework concerning the long term planning for the town until 2028. The framework consists of the core strategy and a more detailed site allocations plan. A consultation on changes to the plan is currently underway and concludes on the 8th August and LSP partners are urged to contribute.</p> <p>Comments and concerns expressed by Board members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have accurate figures on the number of affordable housing units required in the coming years and is the price going to make them truly affordable? • How are the changes in the benefits system being taken into account? • Is there a flexibility that will allow the mix of tenure be altered to accommodate 	

	<p>changing demographic need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it only a 6 week consultation when the compact agreement recommends 12 weeks? • Could a reduction in supply exacerbate the problem of pushing the most vulnerable into substandard accommodation? <p>Demand currently outstrips supply and the whole town has a shortage of a range of tenure types including family homes. A range of measures to increase the number and range of affordable homes is a primary aim and achieving a good balance is key to encouraging a settled community. There is still much work to be done with factors such as an aging population and low job density to consider. The lack of physical space is also an issue and our relationship with Rother District Council will be crucial with regard to expansion issues on the town boundaries.</p> <p>A request was made for this information to be presented at the four Area Management Boards and to explore the possibility of extending the consultation period to comply with the compact guidelines. It was agreed that the 12 week timetable will apply for the formal consultation on the draft core strategy.</p>	
<u>21</u>	<p><u>HOUSING PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>Andrew Palmer and Jane Porter gave presentations to the Board outlining how the Council and Amicus Horizons aim to support the housing need of local communities in light of the funding reductions and changes in legislation such as the move to a universal benefit system. Ensuring there is an adequate supply of appropriate and affordable housing stock to meet the needs of residents will be particularly challenging in the future.</p> <p>Comments and concerns expressed by Board members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to fully consider the impact of relocating communities from elsewhere so that economic ghettos are not created. How will we monitor where the tenants occupying Local Space housing come from, can they be ring fenced for local people? • How can we tackle bad managing agencies and landlords and prevent Houses in Multiple Occupation license fees being passed onto tenants? • In light of the benefit changes how will we support the most vulnerable to meet their rent and prevent them losing their homes. • Considering the reduction of community support facilities such as the CAB how will we aim to keep a focus on developing sustainable communities and narrowing the gap? • What progress is being made in providing eco and low carbon emission homes? <p>There is no evidence to suggest that license fees are being passed on to tenants but these measures are helping to drive out the worst landlords.</p> <p>The local Housing association will manage tenancies for Local Space housing and the local authority will also have a say in how properties are allocated. There will be an inevitable 'trickle down' effect drawing tenants to areas of greater affordability and although we may be able to exert some influence over social housing, the private rented sector may see an increase in tenants from other areas of the South East and London. Where eco homes can be delivered at a reasonable cost this will be encouraged and the use of solar power is being increasingly used in the local area.</p> <p>Both organisations are continuing to work closely with vulnerable communities to offer support and advice and additional funding streams identified where possible.</p>	
<u>22</u>	<p><u>EXCELLENCE CLUSTER</u></p> <p>Philip Halstead presented two reports to the Board providing current information on the status of the Excellence Cluster.</p>	

	<p>Thanks were extended to the Board and those other organisations who petitioned the Schools Forum to reconsider their decision to redistribute the Excellence Cluster funding to all schools in the county. However, this decision was upheld and decisions on next years funding allocations will be made in the Autumn.</p> <p>Members of the Board were extremely concerned that this may indicate a trend in future decision making both at a national and local level, further obscuring the need in Hastings for targeted educational initiatives. The recent successes in narrowing the gap in educational attainment and achievement in the town must not be lost.</p> <p>The Community Network have requested further clarification to ascertain if all the representations were put before the Schools Forum and are expecting an answer toward the end of July.</p> <p>Sustaining our objections to this decision was agreed.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to send a letter to County Council requesting clarification on the legality of the decision making process and if it was in accordance with Department for Education protocols.</p>	Cllr Birch
<u>23</u>	<p><u>HASTINGS 2066 FOOTSTEPS INTO THE FUTURE FEEDBACK</u></p> <p>A report giving feedback on the Hastings 2066 event held on 17th June was presented. This event began a consultation process on the development of a town wide climate change action plan. A proceedings report is being prepared for distribution and a list of key actions identified by the workshops is being drawn up. The Strategy and Action Plan will be completed by Autumn and adopted by Council's Cabinet in March 2012 after a consultation process has been undertaken.</p>	
<u>24</u>	<p><u>LOCAL PLACE SURVEY</u></p> <p>A copy of the final Local Place survey was distributed. Hard copies will be posted to borough residents to achieve at least 1100 responses and an overall return rate of 1600 will be realised with the help of electronic surveys completed online via HBC and partners agency websites.</p> <p>HCN expressed disappointment that question 11 regarding voluntary work carried out in the last 12 months doesn't specify the number of hours given. Unfortunately it is now too late to change the wording but this will be noted for future survey development.</p>	
<u>25</u>	<p><u>ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Anti Poverty Strategy is in its final draft and will be going out for consultation very soon via the following link: Anti Poverty Strategy</p> <p>The 12 week consultation commitment as stipulated by the Compact will be met and will provide an opportunity for students away during the summer to complete it when they return to study.</p>	
<u>26</u>	<p><u>FORESHORE TRUST UPDATE</u></p> <p>A report on the progress of the Council's first six months as Trustees of the Foreshore Trust was made available for information.</p>	
<u>27</u>	<p><u>OLYMPIC TORCH UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Olympic Torch Relay will arrive in Hastings on Tuesday 17th July next year. It will be transported along the seafront from Bexhill and stop overnight in Hastings. A series of celebratory entertainment events are being planned to take place on the Stade Open Space that evening.</p> <p>Further information will be publicised as and when appropriate although some specific details will remain confidential.</p>	

<p><u>28</u></p>	<p><u>REGENERATION UPDATE</u></p> <p>Due to the disbanding of the Regional Development Agency and the cessation of it's associated funding the majority of Sea Space staff contracts will be terminated at the end of the month. As a consequence, there will no longer be a representative on the LSP Board from SeaSpace.</p> <p>The Hastings and Bexhill Renaissance Ltd company will also undergo some changes in structure to facilitate continued support for ongoing projects such as those in the town centre and at Queensway.</p> <p>Work to identify and secure other funding opportunities is ongoing including the Regional Growth Fund.</p> <p>Work with partners of the South East Local Enterprise Plan's coastal group is also continuing.</p>	
<p><u>29</u></p>	<p><u>TOWN CONFERENCE</u></p> <p>The draft agenda for the Town Conference taking place on September 26th was distributed and noted.</p>	
<p><u>30</u></p>	<p><u>EXECUTIVE DELIVERY GROUP</u></p> <p>The notes of the EDG meeting which took place on June 28th were made available for information</p>	
<p><u>31</u></p>	<p><u>EAST SUSSEX STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP</u></p> <p>The notes of the 4th April meeting and the agenda for the 8th July ESSP meetings were distributed for information</p>	
<p><u>32</u></p>	<p><u>OTHER URGENT ITEMS</u></p> <p>Mark Turczanski informed the Board of new ASBO and Hate Crime reporting scheme being launched countywide during August. Colleagues in the Police to provide further information which will be distributed for the next meeting.</p> <p>George O'Reilly reminded all that any concerns regarding the fire safety standards of rented housing stock can be passed onto the fire and rescue service in complete confidence.</p>	<p>DCI Taylor</p>
<p><u>33</u></p>	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Monday October 17th 2011, 10am, Council Chamber.</p>	