

Minutes of Wealden Local Strategic Partnership 23rd September 2002

Present:

Councillor Rupert Thornley Taylor – Wealden District Council
Aprille Biggs – Environment Agency
Michael Cook
Alison Horan – East Sussex County Council
John Kelly – Wealden Federation of Voluntary Organisations
Paul Pearce – Sussex Police
Grenville Wilson – Sussex Police
Andrew Porter – East Sussex Fire Brigade
Jeremy Leggett – Action in Rural Sussex
Cynthia Lyons – Sussex Downs & Weald Primary Care Trust
Tim Sparrow – Sussex Association of Local Councils
Ken Stevens – Federation of Small Businesses
Hilary Storm – Eastbourne Downs Primary Care Group
Debra Shandley (joined the meeting at 5.30pm) – Sussex Learning & Skills Council
Charmian Allcock – Wealden District Council
Matt Cain – Wealden District Council
Joanna Hill – Wealden District Council
Charlie Lant – Wealden District Council
Stella Law – Wealden District Council
Kieran McNamara – Wealden District Council

Apologies:

Ian Chisnall – Churches Together in Sussex
Fiona Henniker (represented by Cynthia Lyons)
Peter Midgley (represented by Aprille Biggs)
John Vesely (represented by Hilary Storm)
Melanie Hunt (represented by Debra Shandley)
Councillor Tony Reid (represented by Alison Horan)

The Chairman introduced Matt Cain from the Institute of Public Policy and Research who are currently collating a guide to best practice in local government. The Wealden LSP has been selected as an example of effective partnership working and will feature in a publication to be produced in the New Year. Stella Law from Care Equation Ltd (partners in the consultation exercise) was also introduced to the group.

Update on progress towards production of community strategy

The LSP was happy with the summary of findings sent to all those who participated in the consultation exercise and felt it was a good example of the use of plain English. The Partnership reiterated its desire to ensure the published strategy is in a similarly readable format. As the action plan has a different target audience this would be less of a concern and it was felt to be more important that the action plan is written in language that will have most effect on those expected to deliver it.

A number of minor changes to the draft strategy were suggested for consideration if practical. These included:

- Tab pages
- Document needs to address the fact that each theme can have an effect on other themes.
- Partner logos to appear across the bottom of each double page spread so as to free the back page
- Combine all the 'what you can do' sections on the back page

- Map of Wealden should be included
- Care Equation Ltd to confirm comments appearing in strategy are in line, so far as could be judged, with those made by respondents.

All partners endorsed the draft strategy subject to these minor amendments and recirculation to partners prior to publication.

The distribution of the strategy was discussed and it was agreed that a copy should be sent to all households. The LSP were keen to use any opportunities to 'piggy back' this publication on the back of any other mail outs being undertaken by partner organisations in view of cost saving or perceived costs. The distribution of the Wealden Annual Review was highlighted as the most likely option.

Next steps

Work on the production of an action plan with overall targets for the next 10-15 years would continue. This will incorporate short, medium and long term targets under all themes. It was agreed that a solid action plan must underpin the strategy and should outline who is going to deliver the targets set out. Theme champions were working towards the production of an action plan capable of implementation following formal adoption by the LSP in November. It was anticipated that the action plan would be agreed at the next meeting.

Accreditation report

Tim Sparrow presented this report highlighting a number of action points. It was agreed that the LSP should address action points as appropriate and present the self assessment to GOSE for comment and that this should be timed to coincide with publication of the strategy.

It was proposed any comments on this report be made to Kieran McNamara as soon as possible.

Partnerships/Strategy Implementation

Delivery partnerships were confirmed for a number of themes. Each of the delivery partnerships, would report progress to the LSP. This will enable the LSP to monitor performance whilst remaining strategic.

The emerging action plans for leisure and environment were agreed as a good starting for setting up the relevant delivery partnerships. A delivery mechanism for the transport theme had yet to be finalised but might rely primarily on County Council activity and pre-existing groupings. Theme champions will need to ensure they have strong links with sub partnerships.

The other five delivery partnerships were agreed in principle with some changes in focus being required if these partnerships priorities were to be aligned with those of the LSP. Theme champions will work with council officers to address these issues outside of the meeting and would be expected to confirm arrangements at the next meeting.

Partners would also need to confirm how and when their own organisation would formally adopt the strategy. Wealden District Council would be considering the strategy on 6th November. It was appropriate that all organisations endorsed the strategy before publication.

Any other business

The partnership agreed to submit an application to the National Grid Community 21 Award, and if successful to use the £10,000 prize money to support the production of village action plans etc.

It was agreed the next meeting should take place in mid-November, and noted that the Chairmanship would sensibly change thereafter.

ENDS