

**Note of Wealden Local Strategic Partnership meeting 28 January 2010,
Wealden District Council, Hailsham.**

Present:

Ian Chisnall – Chair, Churches Together in Sussex
Monica Akehurst - NFU
Lisa Compton – PCT
Alison Culshaw - Jobcentre Plus
Cllr Pam Doodes – Leader, WDC
Tracy Evans - Downland Housing Association
Cllr Linda Francis – Willingdon & Jevington Parish Council (representing southern parishes)
Alison Fryer - Jobcentre Plus
Cllr Roy Galley – WDC Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Housing Delivery
Alison Horan - East Sussex County Council
Claerwyn Hughes - Environment Agency
Simon Kiley - Action in Rural Sussex
Cllr William King - Maresfield Parish Council (representing northern parishes)
Sheila O'Sullivan - PCT
Neal Robinson - East Sussex Fire and Rescue
Sue Shoesmith - South Downs CVS
Cllr David White – WDC Councillor
Cllr Chantal Wilson – WDC Councillor

In Attendance

Gill Cameron-Waller – WDC, Policy and Partnership Manager
Alex White – WDC, Policy Officer
Tom Stuart, WDC, Policy Officer
David Phillips - WDC Head of Planning Policy

Apologies:

Cllr Gerald Carter - Polegate Town Council (representing town councils)
Teresa Gittins – Action in Rural Sussex, Director of Policy
Charles Lant – WDC, Chief Executive
Julia Pope - Sussex Police
Jeff Hart – Freedom Leisure, Managing Director
Garry Frostick - Highways Agency
Ken Stevens – Federation of Small Businesses
Marie Tomblin – Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Services
Cllr Di Phillips - WDC Councillor
Andy Beatie – South Downs Joint Committee
Debbie Matthews - South Downs CVS
Adam Chugg - Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Services

1. Welcome and introductions

Ian Chisnall welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Alison Culshaw and Alison Fryer from Jobcentre Plus and Claerwyn Hughes from the Environment Agency.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Economic situation in Wealden - see item 3 below.

Flu pandemic - see item 4 below.

Local Development Framework - see item 5 below.

PtP funding - Alex White said he had had verbal confirmation from PtP that the bid for funding had been successful. The bid was for: £1,000 to be pooled with other East Sussex LSPs to fund county-wide activities; £3,000 to support a project to map out businesses in Wealden; £1,000 to support the 'Walking for Wealden' project; and £1,000 to support the event that had been held on infrastructure and the Sustainable Community Strategy in November 2009. Gill Cameron-Waller asked if members had any particular ideas or suggestions about the business mapping project to forward them to her or Alex.

Action: All

3. Economic situation in Wealden

Alex White presented the regular report on the economic situation. There were two main points of note: additional data on insolvency was now included (with thanks to William King who had suggested the source); and the latest unemployment figures showed an increase of 7 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance.

It was suggested that, whilst the report could continue to be provided as background information, this agenda item could in future focus on particular topics - for example, issues facing young people; the self employed; or the provision of Broadband. These items would be raised by members of the partnership when the opportunity arose.

Action: Alex White/All

4. Update on flu pandemic

Lisa Compton updated members on the current situation. The pandemic had not been as severe as initially anticipated and some of the planned responses

were being reined back. The vaccination programme was continuing - phase 2 (for children) was currently ongoing.

A larger concern at present was the incidence of norovirus across the South East, with DGH in Eastbourne, and the Conquest in Hastings, being particularly hard hit. Control measures are in place but people are encouraged to avoid visiting hospitals for the time being.

Cllr Pam Doodes asked if it would be possible to issue a briefing note for councillors - who would then be able to help get the message out to local communities. Lisa undertook to arrange such a note (now circulated with these minutes).

Action: Lisa Compton

5. Local Development Framework Core Strategy consultation

Cllr Roy Galley updated members on the current situation. Analysis of the response to the consultation exercise was now complete and findings had been presented to the Council's LDF Cabinet sub-Committee. The importance of infrastructure to support new development had been a common theme in the responses to the consultation. A draft Core Strategy will be considered by the LDF sub-Committee in July and by the Full Council of Wealden in September. Roy reminded members that the Core Strategy will not set out the detail of where development will be located - this will follow in subsequent LDF documents.

David Phillips updated members on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and the pilot project work to help prepare this. He circulated a paper setting out the role and importance of such plans and a handout giving an update of the discussions that have already taken place with infrastructure providers (copies circulated with these minutes). The IDP will sit alongside the Core Strategy and will need to set out, in five year tranches, what, and how, infrastructure will be provided to support development.

A Project Board to oversee work on the project will meet in February. To build on the links to the Core Strategy this will draw on the existing LDF Project Board with the addition of Ian Chisnall, Becky Shaw from ESCC, and Charlie Lant.

6. Working together

Ian Chisnall explained that all the East Sussex LSP Chairs and coordinators met on 12 January to consider the future role for LSPs in light of likely constraints on public expenditure. The LSPs had agreed to continue to work together to adapt to changing circumstances.

Ian also mentioned that he and Cllr Pam Doodes had hosted lunchtime discussions on 20 January with Lisa Compton, Neal Robinson, Julia Pope, Becky Shaw and Charlie Lant to explore ways in which the public sector partners may work together more closely and possibly to share resources and assets. Ian hoped to be able to discuss this in more detail at the next Board meeting in March.

Members had been asked in advance to consider how their organisation had coped with the recent severe weather. In discussion, communication emerged as a common issue for all organisations - both with the public to ensure they were kept up to date with any changes to services and also with staff to make sure they had appropriate information. Cllr Pam Doodes is due to hold a meeting with other East Sussex local authority leaders and Cllr Lock from ESCC and will feed in the issues raised by partners.

7. Rural Issues

Cllr Pam Doodes updated members on the latest meeting of the South East Rural Board which had considered reports on Broadband (led by Kent CC) and rural affordable housing (led by Wealden DC). The Board remained a useful lobbying mechanism but SEEDA support for the Board would end in May 2010 and alternative sources were being sought. Regardless of any changes at regional level WDC will continue to support and work with SPARSE (a partnership of the most rural local authorities in England), local rural groups and the Rural Services Network.

Tom Stuart informed members about the recent ESCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) event to raise awareness about rural health services. The event had brought together a variety of organisations and enabled people to share different perspectives on this issue. Tom also updated members on progress on the rural deprivation project (a copy of Tom's presentation is circulated with these minutes). The list of possible indicators gathered from the partnership has been narrowed down to priority issues. The project steering group was due to meet on 29 January and would start to determine the formats for collecting and presenting data and to be able to compare/overlay/map it in the final report. This should be finalised for the next LSP Board meeting in March.

Action: Tom Stuart

8. CDRP Review

In the absence of CI Julia Pope, Alison Horan gave a brief outline of the review. The prime focus was to seek to rationalise the approach across East Sussex and to take out duplicate structures and tackle particular areas of weakness. The data gathering stage was now complete, the findings will be pulled together and proposals put out for consultation shortly. The process is likely to continue to evolve over the coming year. The Safer Wealden

Partnership is the Wealden CDRP, and concern was expressed that, in any reconfiguration, the highly effective, locally focussed Joint Action Groups (JAGs) should be retained.

9. AOB

Alex White reminded members that the FSB annual Expo was scheduled for 29 April at East Sussex National.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting of the LSP will be at **2pm on Wednesday 24 March 2010** at **Uckfield Civic Centre**.

2010 Board meetings

Month	Date 2010	Time	Venue
January	28	10 - 12 .30	Council offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham
March	24	2 - 4.30	Uckfield Civic Centre
May	12	10 - 12.30	Heathfield Community Centre
July	7	2 - 4.30	Polegate Community Centre
September	8	10 - 12.30	Council offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham
November	17	2 - 4.30	Uckfield Civic Centre