

REPORT TO: Eastbourne Area Committee

DATE: 13 February 2002

Title of Report: Update on Community Planning, the East Sussex Strategic Partnership and the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership

1. Background

1.1 The Area Committee received a report on Community Planning and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) at its last meeting on 24 October 2001. It outlined the background to Community Planning and the progress made at that time both in Eastbourne and with a LSP for East Sussex. This report provides an update on; new Government references to Community Planning and LSPs, the first formal meeting of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership and the development of a local strategic partnership for the Eastbourne area.

2. The National Perspective

2.1 The importance the Government continues to place on the creation of effective LSPs and its intention to increasingly require LSPs to lead on new initiatives which are dependent on partnerships for implementation, is reinforced in the recent White Paper.

“...we will complete our drive to establish effective LSPs. These partnerships are the key element in developing integrated approaches to service delivery and to tackling policy priorities in a joined-up way.” (para 2.31).

2.2 The Planning Green Paper also outlines a role for LSPs and Community Strategies.

“ We need to ensure that local plans are better integrated into this new framework, enabling them to become the land use and development delivery mechanism for the objectives and policies set out in the Community Strategy.” (para 4.7).

2.3 The White Paper is also clear about the importance of rationalisation.

“...Proliferation of separate partnerships can lead to fragmentation, duplication and inefficiency. LSPs were established, in part, to bring some order to this situation, by placing themselves at the apex of local partnership arrangements and organising existing partnerships on a sensible basis.” (para 2.37).

2.4 The Government has further emphasised the importance of the community planning for local government in a series of Audit Commission publications. In one of these documents; to whom much is given (new ways of working for councillors following political restructuring) the Government states that for councils

“Preparing the community strategy is the most important function. (para 6)”

3. East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP)

3.1 The ESSP held its first formal meeting on 11 December 2001. Initial membership of the ESSP was confirmed, although it is subject to review during 2002 and is attached at

Appendix 1. Eastbourne is represented by Councillor Bob Lacey OBE. The ESSP agreed a work plan which includes:

- producing a community strategy for East Sussex by 2003/04. This will enable the ESSP to draw on the earlier work being done at Borough and District level and avoid duplication;
- focussing on the key issues listed at paragraph 3.2 below in the first year;
- regular monitoring of progress against agreed milestones and review of key issues;
- having an overview and appropriate involvement in the Public Service Agreement to be negotiated for East Sussex during 2002;
- ongoing work to rationalise and reduce existing partnerships and plans.

3.2 The issues to be focussed on in the first year are detailed below with the lead agency that will undertake the initial scoping work shown in brackets:

- building a knowledge based economy:
 - Ø regenerating rural communities (Sussex Rural Community Council);
 - Ø tackling the problems of the most deprived communities (Hastings/Rother task force expanded to include representation from Eastbourne and other areas);
 - Ø improving communications (transport infrastructure and broadband) (Sussex Enterprise);
- modernising support for older/disabled people (Health);
- create joint, faster and easier access to services for all citizens/E Government (County Council);
- improving community safety (Police/Community Safety network).

3.3 The next meeting of the ESSP is on 21 February. It is hoped that those identified as leading on the work programme will be able to provide initial feedback. This meeting will also consider a report summarising the responses from wider partners who were consulted on the membership and role of the ESSP and what relationship they would like with the ESSP. Quarterly meeting dates have been set for the remainder of the year.

4. Eastbourne Strategic Partnership (ESP)

4.1 On the 22 January a core group of organisations met to progress the formation of a local strategic partnership for the Eastbourne area. The members of this core group are at Appendix 2. East Sussex County Council is represented by Councillor Peter Jones and Eastbourne Borough Council by Councillor Graham Marsden.

4.2 The group made a number of important decisions;

1. The partnership will have a working title of ESP (Eastbourne Strategic Partnership).
2. A Working Group be formed consisting of Core Group representatives, co-ordinated by the Secretariat.
3. The secretariat will be provided by Eastbourne Borough Council in the first year.
4. The Working Group will consider and report to the next meeting:
 - Terms of reference
 - Mapping statistics at ward level in Eastbourne to inform the ESP
 - Develop a circular model of structure
 - Ongoing Partnership name and logo (to be developed with community input)
 - Existing Partnership audit, and Core Group audit
 - Communications policy and protocol
 - Project planning of the Community Strategy
 - Means of community engagement
 - A full contacts list for the ESP, including officers and deputies
5. Councillor Graham Marsden (Leader, Eastbourne Borough Council) will be the ESP Chairman for the first year
6. Gary Barr (President, Eastbourne & District Chamber of Commerce) will be the ESP Deputy Chairman for the first year.
7. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the ESP will be from different organisations
8. There will be three meetings of the ESP in the first year

4.3 The next meeting of the ESP will be on Friday 12th April 2002 at 10.00am, Court Room, Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne

4.4

Dave Marshall, Head of Trading Standards and Link Officer to Eastbourne Strategic Partnership. East Sussex County Council. Telephone 01273 481825

Stuart Russell, Head of Strategic Development, Eastbourne Borough Council. Telephone 01323 415163.

Appendix 1

Membership of ESSP

Countywide statutory agencies

Health	2
(One representative from a Primary Care Trust and one from an Acute Trust)	
Police	2
(One representative of the Chief Constable and one of the Police Authority)	
Fire	1
Learning & Skills Council	1
East Sussex County Council	3
(Leader of the Council, Lead Member on Community Planning and Chief Executive)	
Total	9

Local statutory agencies

Eastbourne Borough Council	1
Hastings Borough Council	1
Lewes District Council	1
Rother District Council	1
Wealden District Council	1
Sussex Association of Local Councils	1
Total	6

Business, voluntary and community sectors

East.Sussex Economic Partnership	1
Sussex Enterprise	1
Sussex Rural Community Council	1
Councils for Voluntary Services	2
Sussex Churches Together	1
Sussex Federation of Small Businesses	1

Total 7

Government Office for the South East

1 (as observer)

Overall total 22

Appendix 2

Membership of ESP Core Group

Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Services

East Sussex Learning Partnership

Eastbourne Downs Primary Care Group

Sussex Police

Registered Social Landlords

Eastbourne & District Chamber of Commerce

East Sussex County Council

Eastbourne Borough Council