



ARUN LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP REPORT BACK FORM

Report from Steering Group Meeting held on: 7th December 2010

Date of Report: 24th December 2010

Report to: JEAAC

Report from: Cllr Geraldine Walker

Main issues arising:

Introduction and Welcome

Romy Jones welcomed partners and explained that the Chair of the LSP, Brian Hughes, has resigned as his post at the PCT had come to an end, and as Vice Chair, Romy is stepping up to chair the LSP temporarily.

Matters Arising and LSP Business

The New Arun Landscape – Following from the last meeting when time for discussion was limited, partners were invited to comment on this subject. It was agreed that it is a rapidly changing arena – c 35 announcements per day come out of the coalition government. Arun DC is undertaking a Mid Term Review of its Priorities with final decisions to be made after May elections.

Clearly challenging times ahead – there is a tendency to withdraw into our own organisations, yet this is the time when we need more than ever to work together and not compete.

The Steering Group needs to consider its role and approach if some Delivery Partnerships are given more funding in the future; it was agreed that it needed to be more aware of this, and how well Delivery Partnerships were aligned with the Priorities in “Our Kind of Place” - **Caroline**.

There are sweeping changes coming in Housing, with the cap on Housing Benefit likely to have a big impact in Arun. Also the security of tenure has changed from “for life” to shorter term tenancy agreements. To offset the 60% cut in the affordable housing budget, “affordable rents” will be introduced by Housing Associations; analysis shows the weekly rent for a 3 bed property could rise from £101/week to £148/week.

Census Update – A full update from the Census Manager, John Heaton is available via the [link](#). Hilary Spencer confirmed that the Task and Finish Group has identified that it’s important to engage with older people and with migrant worker communities about the importance of the Census and how to enable them to take part. In recognition of the importance of the Census, Arun DC has agreed to fund the Expanding Communities Team over the

Census period to ensure good take up. Work has been done with Age UK to enable older, frailer people to submit a return.

LSP Conference – Well attended, lots of good discussions and ideas about Big Society. There are government-sponsored Big Society Awards running currently – more information on the [link](#).

LSP Funding for Community Engagement and Consultation – This work will be progressed with CVS-Arunwide and Chichester University Student Union early in the new year - **Caroline**

Ideas Shop – if you need a shop window for a consultation, meeting point or anything else, this is available at 10 Beach Road, Littlehampton. Contact 01903 737844 or IdeasShop@arun.gov.uk

Housing Numbers for Arun – this consultation is currently open looking at how many new homes Arun needs before 2026. Follow the link to the [survey](#)

What next for Arun LSP?

The Value of the LSP Research: Key findings from the interview and survey were that the LSP is valued by the partners and it would be a bad thing to stop it. It is highly valued for information on projects, partners' work areas and best practice, and also the opportunity to build relationships with partners you might otherwise not meet. The Sustainable Community Strategy "Our Kind of Place" was valued as a visioning document and to enable partners to demonstrate that their work is to local priorities.

The areas for development were taking information sharing and co-ordination to the next level – shared financials and looking at place based budgeting and pooled and aligned funding, also the opportunity for scrutiny and constructive criticism of LSP business. To evidence that the LSP provides "value for money" is also hard, with the need for a performance management system to demonstrate impact. Also, with the fast-changing environment, review of function and form, membership and structure are needed.

It was noted that greater openness and transparency is welcomed, and there is a need for better engagement with the private sector - **Caroline**

Reshaping the Partnership Landscape: This report from Local Government Improvement and Development sets out the current context for partnerships, and research findings from a range of LSPs nationally about how they are planning for the future. The key findings were that commitment to partnership remains strong, and Sustainable Community Strategies are still viewed as core documents. Many LSPs are reviewing function and form, with a leaning towards "hard" rather than "soft" partnerships encompassing place based budgeting, shared services, joint commissioning, and more nimble and flexible Task and Finish working. Many of the examples quotes were either county or unitary authorities; how much is feasible at district level is unclear.

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) "Coast to Capital" was discussed – this will be the local framework for economic development and regeneration. It comprises Coastal, Rural and Gatwick Diamond areas of West Sussex, plus Brighton and Hove, and Croydon. It is likely that the sub-regional areas such as Coastal West Sussex will become more important and links between this and the LSP and also the LEP and the voluntary sector were questioned - **Romy**. The LEP is currently being developed and will take over from the current Enterprise Board reporting into Public Service Board.

West Sussex Perspectives – Mike Link – The West Sussex Co-operative is the new name for the Public Service Board; working in partnership is now through choice rather than being impelled by government directive or funding. Priorities will be decided locally and the sustainable community strategy is still considered to be valid. A decision has been taken to select a few cross-cutting priority areas that tend to fall between agencies and are not “owned”; the list includes early intervention, family support, the LEP, carbon and renewables and enabling communities. The level of support that WSCC can offer is uncertain as they are cutting management posts by 30%. The “Better Together” shared services agenda is between all district/borough councils and county councils, and the first project is around assets and buildings, and the potential to share spaces. Questions were raised about how individuals and organisations can get involved with the Co-operative, if meetings are public and open to all, and when/where they are. A link will be provided by WSCC for circulation once this information is available - **Caroline**

Arun District Council Perspective: Change is a recurring theme, and the Localism Bill is due soon which is good as we need it now. The strength of Arun LSP is the people around the table; there is a long shared history of working co-operatively, starting with the Key Partners Group back in 1999 which produced the first version of “Our Kind of Place” back in 2000 and morphed into the LSP in 2002. There was little “form and function” in the early days, but a lot was achieved, especially around tackling the most difficult issues. The advent of the LSP brought more formality and statutory roles, and the LAA brought funding and concrete delivery for the LSP over the last few years. The research showed that people value what the LSP achieves. Do we want to change it, and if so, how do we retain the bits that people currently value, but strengthen the LSP to be the key influencer in Arun. One reflection that may have an impact is that the big strategic decisions about things that affect Arun as a whole are not currently taken at the LSP. It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group would be convened to look at possible ways forward and report back to the next meeting – **Caroline**.

It was also agreed to convene a wide-ranging Task and Finish Group to create a local plan for health inequalities in Arun. It would map existing provision and look at potential gaps – **David Bishop/Hazel Flack**.

Local Neighbourhood Improvement Areas

Joy Bradbury-Ball set out the areas, process, structures, project details and outcomes for LNIA work over 2 years. Full details are on her [presentation](#).

Arun Youth Council

It was agreed to postpone this presentation until the next meeting as Katie Emms, Chair of Arun Youth Council was unable to attend because of missing school through snow closures. Her update report can be viewed on the [link](#).

The meeting agreed that it was pleasing that the three Joint Area Committees were now undertaking Area Action Planning, and working up projects specific to their areas.