

ADUR AND WORTHING – JOINT SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

From Joint LSP Board Event on 15 April 2009

1. Summary of Discussions

1.1. Ambitions for working together on the Sustainable Community Strategy

The meeting wanted the new SCS to be more strategic and aligned with the county, but also to recognise local differences. It should be focussed on delivering real improvements for local people.

Build on what is already available and combine resources to develop the SCS.

1.2. What is involved in producing an SCS?

Reflect on the approach by Lancaster and take into account the county's own approach. Focus clearly on joint actions and cross-cutting issues.

It is very important to join up the imminent planned consultations and particularly to utilise the opportunities offered by the forthcoming consultations on the Core Strategies. There needs to be a meaningful consultation process, using evidence to help people focus on key issues and choices, and which uses existing LSP structures and local groups.

1.3. Establishing the Joint Working Group

The main elements for the terms of reference are about right, but more detail needed, e.g. emphasising the need to reflect locality differences. It was agreed that the remit of the Joint Working Group should ideally cover both the joint SCS and the two LDF Core Strategies.

There needs to be a limited number of planned and focussed meetings with well co-ordinated officer support (preferably through an Officers Working Party).

1.4. Is the membership about right?

Whilst the suggested membership covers most of the key organisations, it needs to be smaller to be an effective 'task group' working to a tight timetable. Involve people who are really focussed on Adur and Worthing but senior enough to make decisions on priorities.

There were some specific comments on membership, but it was agreed that individual qualities were essential (not just being a routine representative). Some bodies (e.g. SEEDA) might be better involved on a one to one basis.

1.5. How will thematic groups best contribute?

They will need to provide strong evidence and information, using their own membership's knowledge and views, to build a strategy, especially for the deprived areas.

They will have to work together across both Adur and Worthing, even though not all specialist themes directly relate to each other.

2. Agenda for First Meeting of Joint Working Group 6 May

- Terms of reference
- Initial outline Project Plan (with potential timetable and key milestones)
- Presentations from planning officers on emerging Core Strategies and 'story of place', especially identifying key drivers of economic and social change
- Shared evidence base: what is already available and where the gaps are.
- Consultation Plan: initial ideas
- Communications Plan: identification of key issues
- Resources: Officer Working Party (with participation and support from key agencies)
- Schedule of JWG meetings

3. Next Steps

- Officers to hold a pre-meeting to ensure preparation of necessary papers for 6 May meeting
- James to identify a small list of key participants (bearing in mind the individual is as important as their 'label') and discuss with Leaders.

Thematic groups from both areas need to be ready to make joint arrangements to contribute in line with the Project Plan, Communications Plan and Consultation Plan.

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