



## BOARD WORKSHOP at HACHESTON VILLAGE HALL -15 JUNE 2016

### NOTES (UNCONFIRMED)

PRESENT	
Chris Abraham (for Janice Banks)	Community Action Suffolk
Chris Betson	East Suffolk Business Associations
Andrew Cassy	East Suffolk Greenprint Forum
Phillip Hayes	Suffolk Association of Local Councils
Geoff Holdcroft (for Ray Herring)	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Richard Hill (for Jennifer Powell)	Suffolk Police
Len Jacklin (for Sandy Martin)	Suffolk County Council
Colin Law (Chair)	Waveney District Council
Frank Mortimer	Waveney District Council
Olivia Heeley (for Nathan Bowkett / Ray Wang)	East Suffolk Youth Priority Action Group
APOLOGIES	
Andrew Evans	Great Yarmouth & Waveney CCG
Stephen Javes	Orwell Housing
Alistair MacFarlane	Associated British Ports
IN ATTENDANCE	
Luke Bennett	East Suffolk Partnership
Sara Blake	Suffolk County Council
Arthur Charvonias	Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Council
Nicole Rickard	Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils & NHS Great Yarmouth & Waveney CCG
Caroline Rutherford	Just 42
Alison Wheatland	Suffolk County Council
Paul Wood	Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils

ITEM	ISSUES/ACTIONS
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Colin Law introduced the Workshop: ESP successfully established in 2012 and over the ensuing four years things have changed to fundamentally alter the framework and background within which the partnership operates. Therefore this workshop kicks off a timely review of the ESP to take stock and agree the way forward.</p> <p>Arthur Charvonias explained what the Board was being asked to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfirm what the ESP needs to deliver</li> <li>• Focus on opportunities through the ESP - developing ideas for action</li> <li>• Develop the way the ESP operates to ensure it delivers what is needed</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that this workshop represents the first stage – outcomes will be evaluated and recommendations brought back to the next meeting of the Board.</p>

2 & 3	<p><b>Review</b>          Luke Bennett: Presentation on ESP impact to date.</p> <p><b>The Issues</b>          Arthur Charvonja: Presentation on “where now”...</p> <p>Combined presentations can be viewed on the ESP website here:  <a href="http://www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/espboardmeetings/esp-board-meeting-15-june-2016/">http://www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/espboardmeetings/esp-board-meeting-15-june-2016/</a></p>
4	<p><b>Reflect and challenge</b></p> <p>Breakout: 3 x tables – one each to discuss connect / influence / deliver functions.</p> <p>Questions:          Strengths: What is already being addressed? How successfully?          Weaknesses: What has not gone well? Where are the gaps?</p> <p><b>Table: 1 Connect</b></p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided links to broader strategies e.g. Sustainability through the Greenprint Forum, Economy &amp; Growth through the East Suffolk Business Associations Network and Health and Wellbeing through the East Suffolk Health &amp; Wellbeing Advisory Group</li> <li>• The Board includes key players / organisations with influence (but could exploit this strength more)</li> <li>• Not ‘owned’ by one organisation... engenders constructive, collective dialogue</li> <li>• Links well to others outside ESP e.g. not just organisations led by ESP Board</li> <li>• Breadth of agendas being addressed / but able to focus on priorities – reach / diversity</li> <li>• Geography works - but with challenges (like the health system)</li> <li>• Annual Forum leads to new connections and opportunities to invent or replicate good practice</li> <li>• Trusting relationships – people comfortable to talk when things go wrong</li> <li>• Political buy in (but how deep?)</li> <li>• Creates opportunities to share awareness, experiences, group discussions about wide range of issues</li> <li>• Gives individuals courage to try new things – ESP represent a safe place</li> </ul> <p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition for resources – does there need to be even more specific focus?</li> <li>• Variable strength of connection to key agenda’s e.g. health, ageing, housing</li> <li>• Longer term, strategic v short term, detailed (medium term window?)</li> <li>• How deep are connections? At Board level not much between meetings</li> <li>• How often do we create / coproduce things together?</li> <li>• Q: If ESP board didn’t exist, would the activity happen anyway (as in other parts of Suffolk) (To make a difference the Board need to demonstrate more influence and leadership).</li> <li>• Is it too cosy / same faces?</li> <li>• No public attendance (except Forum) Should we do more? For example theme based sessions?</li> <li>• Duplication of agenda items (e.g. TCA, funding group) However, can be strength with different focus of discussion</li> <li>• Could have more focus on East Suffolk perspective and respond to various initiatives as East Suffolk</li> <li>• Geography – physical connectivity is challenging</li> </ul>

**Table 2: Influence**

## Strengths

- ESP has significant influence on the interaction between many groups and organisations in East Suffolk
- Influence in terms of engaging young people in issues that affect them (East Suffolk Youth Priority Action Group)
- Acts as a catalyst for other developments (often not even attributed to the ESP)
- Influence of the ESP often most important at the origin of projects
- Experience of ESP (and predecessors) influence / catalyst for other work like Lowestoft Rising
- Forum very successful, with the range and number of organisations / individuals involved. This leads to connections beyond ESP Board and therefore influence is pushed outwards
- Built strong reputation – influence, through tangible delivery – creating a virtuous circle

## Weaknesses

- Lack of awareness of ESP (within East Suffolk)
- Not being able to convey value of ESP and attract more involvement – perception issue
- Getting message out to the wider audience

**Table 3: Deliver**

## Strengths

- Coproduction a strong emphasis
- Not purely restricted by themes necessarily e.g. lots of focus on youth – responded to need / opportunities
- Priorities focussed and refreshed regularly
- Partnership groups & networks enable access to resources to deliver.
- Diverse leadership non-political common / shared ambitions – unique
- Exemplar in terms of use of New Homes Bonus (Transparent and collaborative process used to fund outcomes that attract high levels of match funding and resource)
- Partnership Manager has been influential. Not tied to any one organisation and therefore untethered to work with individuals from any sector in any way to build the right relationships and to help change the way things happen.

## Weaknesses

- What difference is felt by most people in east Suffolk?
- Perception of disparity (rural) in some localities – too much focus on Lowestoft and Felixstowe
- Unclear how much we want to ‘own’ or brand activity supported by ESP – silent / invisible delivery – good or bad thing?
- Suffolk Coastal and Waveney two elements with significant differences (opportunity)
- Can we be more bottom up led (opportunity)

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**Feedback: Opportunities through the ESP**

Identified where the ESP should have a role going forward:

## Opportunities

- Clarity over sphere of influence – who and on what and how. Start within the ESP first and then beyond e.g. New Anglia LEP for benefit of East Suffolk
- Branding – increase awareness of ESP and what it does
- Capitalise on the outcomes – shout about it
- Stick to collaborating at East Suffolk geography – focus of effort and money (NHB)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forum – build on success and deliver more theme or place based events</li> <li>• Even more of a focus to collaborate to enable effective interventions in East Suffolk</li> <li>• Great opportunity to build on the ESP as ‘safe space’ to Innovate</li> <li>• <u>Focus on working together</u> in East Suffolk</li> <li>• Keep specific to East Suffolk (not do everything because may be more local / regionally appropriate mechanisms)</li> <li>• Coordinate approach to complex issues of rural and hidden needs in east Suffolk</li> <li>• Build meaningful and productive links / connections to the Suffolk Health and wellbeing board to have more impact in east Suffolk</li> <li>• Build on success as catalyst / incubation for smaller initiatives</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Agree the way forward</b></p> <p>It was agreed this workshop represents the first stage of the process to refocus and strengthen the ESP to build on its obvious strengths and address any weaknesses it has had up to now.</p> <p>The outcomes will be evaluated and recommendations brought back to the next meeting of the Board to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfirm what the ESP needs to deliver.</li> <li>• Identify the opportunities to do things differently through the ESP.</li> <li>• Agree how the ESP should operate to ensure it has impact.</li> </ul>