

Business Plan priorities for 2015 -16

Luke Bennett, Partnership Manager

1. Purpose:

At its meeting on 18th March 2015 the Board reviewed progress in delivering the ESP business plan. It was agreed that performance during 2014-15 was good, and the focus of activity was right. It was also agreed that the key issues for the ESP will remain unchanged, but the specific priorities for action in 2015-16 would be reviewed by the Programme Officers Group.

Following a review by members of the Programme Officers Group, this report will recommend priorities for action in 2015-16.

2. Context:

The ESP is focusing on five key areas of activity:

- Build on economic prosperity, growth and infrastructure development
- Ensure people have the skills to meet employment opportunities
- Encourage a growing, ageing population to be healthy and live well
- Build strong communities & reduce inequalities in health, housing & crime
- Improve lives through environmental action

The ESP has helped connect partners across the system to promote a collaborative approach to delivery by organising one off events and providing more sustained support through the following local networks:

Being Well in the Wild

East Suffolk Business Associations Network

East Suffolk Funding Group

East Suffolk Greenprint Forum

East Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group

East Suffolk Resource Network

East Suffolk Skills Group

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Community Safety Partnerships

Suffolk Coastal & Waveney Young People Group

3. Recommendations:

The Board is asked to consider the following Priorities for 2015–16:

Build on economic prosperity, growth and infrastructure development

- Support Business Associations in East Suffolk to have sufficient operational capacity to realise their plans for growth.
- Support Business Associations in East Suffolk to develop and promote a wider network of businesses, local government and specialist organisations to encourage beneficial partnerships.
- Support East Suffolk Businesses to develop activity that will help develop new 'Routes to Market'.
- Contribute to the sustainability of our market towns by supporting existing grass roots activity, encouraging new ways of thinking and stimulating collaborative work to build strong and distinctive places.

Ensure people have the skills to meet employment opportunities

- Ensure access to internet job search and job application support is available for unemployed, low skilled and low paid workers.
- Explore ways to reduce the practical barriers to accessing training and employment, such as the cost and availability of transport and accommodation.
- Support and develop initiatives to help unemployed people (especially young people) raise their aspirations and find work, self-employment, education or training opportunities.
- Support and develop initiatives to improve the links between schools, colleges, further education providers and employers.

Encourage a growing, ageing population to be healthy and live well

- Ask older people about their aspirations and explore ideas for action including intergenerational activities and maximising the use of existing community assets.
- Encourage self-help, particularly in managing long term conditions, including through improved access to information.
- Support the drive to provide joined up care closer to people's homes and help people to access the right health services at the right time.
- Strengthen community support for older people and their carers and encourage dementia friendly communities and businesses.
- Encourage physical and social activity earlier in life to promote healthy ageing and champion access for older people to the natural environment, transport, social activities, community support and services to reduce isolation, ill health and depression.

Build strong communities and reduce inequalities in health, housing, and crime

- Support people to make positive differences for themselves, their families and their communities through the provision of effective support to frontline voluntary and community groups in East Suffolk.
- Effectively share information about health and wellbeing, housing and crime to support informed decision making by local councillors and community leaders
- Support the development of an asset based approach, including the rich natural assets of East Suffolk, to promote health and wellbeing, particularly for those who currently have little access to the natural environment.
- Champion mental health and wellbeing in communities and businesses in East Suffolk, including through a mental health needs assessment for Suffolk.
- Support place-based initiatives in East Suffolk that bring partners from across the public, private and voluntary sectors together to achieve common priorities by testing new delivery models and ways of working.

Improve lives through environmental action

- Help shape work in Suffolk to develop better understanding of local natural capital, and support the development of some tangible case studies in east Suffolk that make sense locally.
- Influence existing networks to ensure that tourism promotion and development fits an east Suffolk value and support work to deliver a commercial all year round volunteer tourism package for Suffolk.
- Support the 'Thrivability of community buildings' initiative to deliver its initial targets and also develop long term sustainability so that we can continue to support communities to manage their buildings and other assets more sustainably,
- Inspire and inform communities on issues relating to their natural capital and how they can value and make best use of it.
- Ask young people about their views on the environment and explore ideas for action.