

# Big Society – the role of the Local Authority

West Sussex Rural Partnership

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# West Sussex County Council – Performance Framework 2011 - 2014

- The Co-operative approach
- Living within our means
- Active Communities
- Think Family
- Healthy Ambitions
- Minding our Businesses
- Building a Sustainable Future
- On the Move

# Performance Framework – The Co-operative Approach

- Partnerships
- Bringing people together
- Inclusive approach
- BETTER OUTCOMES FOR THE COUNTY

# Performance Framework – Active Communities

- Communities and individuals having a say over the planning and delivery of services
- Build on what is already happening
- County Council provide support or tools

# Performance Framework – Active Communities

- We will –
  - Have 15 clusters of parishes and community groups working with the County Council and partners in ways that put the local communities at the forefront of service design and delivery
  - Provide the help communities need, such as know how, advice and guidance
  - Produce and publish data to help residents hold us to account
  - Promote the role of County Councillors in Community leadership
  - Cut the red tape that inhibits community action

# Performance Framework – Active Communities

- You will see –
  - Communities doing things for themselves – this could include running services through co-operatives or community groups taking care of each other and their environment
  - Officers giving specialist support to communities in achieving their goals
  - Communities influencing local decision making including the work of the County Local Committees
  - Financial and other information made available for taxpayers to see how we are spending public money

# Community Action Pilots - Principles

- Work with partners to develop active and engaged communities
- Get closer to customers and communities
- Enable communities to solve their problems with our help
- Different communities – different issues – different solutions

# Community Action Pilots

- Four pilots progressing
- Each pilot involves a cluster of parishes / towns
- Now proposed that 15 clusters will be developed within next two years

# Community Action Pilot Clusters

- Horsham Cluster
  - Southwater, Nuthurst, Lower Beeding, Shipley, Itchingfield, Broadbridge Heath
- Coastal Cluster
  - Littlehampton, Rustington, Angmering, East Preston, Climping, Yapton, Ford
- Chichester South Cluster
  - Chichester City, Fishbourne, Southbourne, Westbourne, Nutbourne, Bosham, Funtingdon, Lavant, Westhampnett, Boxgrove, Tangmere, Oving, North Mundham, Hunston, Donnington, Apuldram
- Midhurst

# The Partners

- AIRS and SALC advice and support has been essential
- Discussions with Parish Clerks
- Working with Districts and Boroughs
- Initial priorities identified
- Three tier member workshops have refined the priorities

## Priorities include:

- Public Liability Insurance
- Street Scene / Street Clutter
- Highways
- Consultations
- Budgets
- Youth Service
- Libraries
- S106
- Better use of community buildings

# Community Action Plans have -

- Challenged how services are commissioned, funded and valued
- Explored how communities can have greater influence over what and how services are provided
- Considered the involvement of the community in the design and delivery of services
- Challenged governance and decision making processes

# Learning from the Pilots

- Support of AIRS and SALC has been essential
- Involvement of Quality Councils is key
- Projects must be developed with Districts and Boroughs
- The voluntary sector and community groups should be involved from the beginning

# Learning from the Pilots

- Areas where resources / skills can be pooled should be identified
- There may be a need to support Towns and Parishes to build capacity in order to enable them to play an active part
- Governance is important – a decision making model that enables all partners to have their say and influence outcomes.

# Learning from the Pilots

- Towns and Parishes should lead the process
- Some Towns and Parishes will not be interested
- It is important that objectives are clear
- It is important that funds available in the cluster area are clear
- Communication is key – a communication approach for the cluster

# What Next

- Services, Buildings, Funding by area – not by service or authority
- Identify 'core' services provided in each parish
- Identify discretionary services provided in each parish – and costs associated with these
- Identify potential funding opportunities – including those associated with development
- Identify key players not yet engaged
- Test prioritisation of existing services against aspirations
- Revisit priorities
- Develop Plans and Projects

# Community Development & Big Society Service

- Ensuring that Community Development & Big Society is central to delivering corporate priorities – work across services to develop solutions to locally identified issues – join things up across services and partners
- Customer interface for all infrastructure issues raised by customers and communities (including the interface with Town Councils, Parish Councils and CLCs)
- Developing information services and their role in engaging communities – ensure that communities have access to the information they need

# Community Development & Big Society Service

- Support the development of volunteers and ensure that maximum benefit and value is achieved through their input
- Community Safety priorities
- Break down barriers and reduce bureaucracy – e.g to achieve greater involvement by communities in managing services such as libraries and youth
- Acting as 'Strategic Client' to develop, with communities, proposals to be programmed and delivered

# Questions?