East Sussex
Local Investment Plan 2011-14
Summary
Boundary map of East Sussex - Districts

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INTRODUCTION

The Single Conversation is the Homes and Communities Agency’s (HCA) business process through which the HCA, local authorities and other key partners will determine key areas for potential housing investment.

The first stage of this is to develop a Local investment Plan (LIP) followed by a Local Investment Agreement (LIA) for East Sussex to help reach a shared view regarding investment priorities and to enable the HCA to plan investment more strategically across the area.

The development of an East Sussex LIP provides an opportunity to consider longer-term investment needs from a position of far greater financial and strategic clarity.

Following the adoption of the LIP, a LIA will be agreed which will set out the HCA’s proposed investment in the area over the next 3 years (2011-14).

Priorities

The LIP is based on jointly agreed priorities. These priorities take their focus from the East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP) Sustainable Community Strategy ‘Pride of Place’, along with a number of other national and local strategy documents. The priorities are:

- Supporting Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation
- Increasing Affordable Housing Delivery
- Supporting Housing Delivery
- Private Sector Housing Renewal
- Promoting Sustainable Communities
- Increasing Rural Affordable Housing to Meet Local Needs
- Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable People
- Tackling Climate Change
- Supporting Infrastructure and Transport through Delivery of Housing

The priorities have been agreed as a result of a number of challenges present in East Sussex:

- Areas with significantly high levels of poverty and deprivation concentrated in but not exclusive too, once prosperous seaside towns
- Coastal towns and economies in desperate need of regeneration
- High levels of housing need in both urban and rural areas and a lack of affordable housing
- Viability issues to delivery of housing across the County, but particularly in urban areas, and particularly without grant
- Significantly higher than average levels of poorer quality private sector housing in some areas, including concentrations of homes in multiple occupation.
- Poor strategic (road and rail) and communication infrastructure
- An ageing population with an associated increasing demand for services
- Inadequate access to services in some rural areas
- Low wages and skills
- Few high earners, most working outside the county
- Poor health, high rates of long term limiting illness in some areas
- An unmet need for supported accommodation, particularly for older people and people with learning disabilities
- A weak local economy, over-dependence on public sector, and small businesses which have lack of space in which to grow
- Little incentive for businesses to re-locate to, or new businesses to set up in, East Sussex
- Flood risk in some rural and coastal areas
- The challenge of ensuring sympathetic design which takes account of local character
Delivery Plans

The analysis of needs and challenges suggests investment should be directed within 5 ‘Place Based’ programmes, designed to meet the identified needs outlined within the LIP. Added to this, an additional 5 theme based programmes, which have been designed to meet the agreed priorities set out in the LIP, and are ‘cross-cutting’. Priority sites must therefore fall within one of the 5 ‘place based’ programmes, but also demonstrate a strategic fit with one or more of the ‘theme based programmes.

The agreed programmes are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place based delivery programmes</th>
<th>Theme based delivery programmes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regeneration of Coastal Communities</td>
<td>Tackling Deprivation and Homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Rural Communities and Sustaining Market/Small Towns</td>
<td>Rebalancing Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Independent Living and Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable People</td>
<td>Promoting Innovation and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Gypsy &amp; Traveller Accommodation Needs</td>
<td>Supporting Economic Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining and Improving the Existing Built Environment</td>
<td>Raising Environmental Standards</td>
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For inclusion within one of the 5 Primary Delivery Programmes, sites have been assessed as able to meet the following:

1) Deliverability
2) Strategic Fit
3) Demonstrable Outcome
4) Value for Money

Additionally, each site has been considered in terms of what wider benefits it might deliver, e.g. is it a catalyst for regeneration; provision of social infrastructure; economic growth?

Delivery of all programmes will result in the following outputs:

All Delivery Programmes
### Next Steps

The partnership agreed early in the process that the East Sussex Local Investment Plan and the resulting Local Investment Agreement should be for a shorter than originally agreed period; this is to take account of current work taking place of strategic importance to future housing delivery plans, including District and Borough Local Development Frameworks; East Sussex Economic Assessment and Strategy; and East Sussex 3rd Local Transport Plan. With the exception of some Local Development Frameworks, these strategic plans are timed to be completed in 2011 and will feed into a ‘re-fresh’ of the Local Investment Plan.

The updated Local Investment Plan will also take account of more innovative methods of delivery and opportunities to increase delivery in more cost effective ways. This could include consideration of existing pilot programmes such as ‘Total Place’ and the ‘Public Land Initiative’. Such innovative programmes are the natural next step for a Partnership already working successfully in the spirit of joint working and co-operation to ensure the best outcomes for residents and to provide housing growth and economic development to meet the needs of the County.