

ACTION PLAN 2009-2010

BACKGROUND

1. The Association's Action Plan was approved at the Annual Meeting on 10 July 2009.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

2. The objectives of the Association are:-
 - To provide a means for facilitating co-operation between the constituent authorities;
 - To promote the interests of local government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight;
 - To assist member authorities in the effective performance of their duties and functions;
 - To pursue issues of common concern to member authorities and to represent their joint interests to other bodies;
 - To develop effective relationships with regional organisations; and
 - To provide a forum for exchange of ideas and experience across member authorities.

CONTEXT

3. The Association works closely with other local authority groupings in particular:
 - The Hampshire Senate
 - Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)

We also work with the Local Government Association (LGA) at national level and a range of regional and more local bodies. We aim to support local partnerships developing between Member authorities, help authorities improve performance, reviewing partnerships as necessary.

The Association's Action Plan is drawn up to add value to the work of local partnerships and avoid duplication. The work set out in the Action Plan is mostly carried out by the Chief Executives' Group and other joint officer groups, with reports as necessary to Member meetings. Members steer the work of joint officer groups via the Action Plan and reports-back.

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN 2009-2010

4. (1) **Improvement/Efficiency**

Build on the new direction set by the Improvement Board, continue to sponsor and support joint working initiatives and improve working arrangements with other public agencies.

Lead Chief Executives: Geoff Bonner/Simon Eden/Ian Lycett with others leading on particular issues e.g. Tony Curtis - Waste Collection.

(2) **Funding**

Continue to press Government /LGA for better funding of national schemes such as concessionary fares. Learn from “Counting Cumbria” and the pilot studies into total public funding for local areas (the “Total Place” pilots).

(3) **Economic Development/Skills**

Build on the work of individual authorities, PUSH, Hampshire Economic Partnership and the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership to ensure that the working population and those about to enter the workplace have the opportunities to obtain the skills required to take full advantage of an economic upturn.

Lead Chief Executives: Andrew Lloyd/Simon Eden/Ian Lycett.

(4) **Community Safety**

Work with Community Safety Partnerships, Police and Local Criminal Justice Board to improve confidence in the criminal justice system and community safety.

Lead Chief Executives: Andrew Lloyd/Sandy Hopkins.

(5) **Culture and Sport**

Help authorities exchange best practice in promoting the life of communities through the “Living Places” agenda, making best use of opportunities arising from preparation for the 2012 Olympics.

Lead Chief Executives: Simon Eden/Roger Tetstall.

(6) **New Legislation**

Continue to work with the LGA to improve and monitor the impact of legislation, currently for example: help authorities to prepare for the implementation of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, in particular the new duty on councils to promote local democracy (with South East Employers supporting an initiative of Southampton City Council).

(7) **Community Engagement and Customer Insight**

Help authorities exchange information and best practice to timetable, structure and where relevant, co-ordinate their community consultations and research into customer needs/views. The purpose of this work is to maximise the impact of community engagement, building on and supporting the role of individual councillors and councils, and in particular learning from pilots in Gosport (engaging people in community safety) and Isle of Wight (participatory budgeting).

Lead Chief Executive: Dave Yates (Community Engagement)
Roger Tetstall (Customer Insight)

(8) **Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Erosion**

Continue to develop joint work on climate change following the June seminar. Help authorities prepare joint flood risk management plans following the Pitt Review in preparation for legislative changes now before Parliament

Lead Chief Executives: Sandy Hopkins (Climate Change)
Peter Grimwood (Emergency Planning).

(9) **Preparing for Pandemics**

Ensure local authorities are fully prepared for potential pandemic 'flu.

Lead Chief Executive: Peter Grimwood.

(10) **Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)**

Help authorities work with the Audit Commission and Inspectorates to reduce the burden of inspection and make the most of CAA.

Lead Chief Executives: Roger Tetstall/Ian Lycett.

(11) **Regional and Subregional Working**

Support the development and work of "South East England Councils" and the Partnership Board which replace the Regional Assembly. Follow through the Association's representations on the Subnational Review.

Lead Chief Executive: Simon Eden.

(12) **Health/Wellbeing and Services for Children and Young People**

Continue to work with the Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trusts on improving the health and wellbeing of the population. Working with the County Council, ensure that the District Councils play their full role in services for children and young people.

NICK GOULDER
Director