

Welcome...

To the Surrey Improvement Partnership (SIP) newsletter. This newsletter will be sent around to key contacts across Surrey on a regular basis to keep everyone informed of the work that SIP is driving and what that might mean for your organisation.

What is SIP?

For those who haven't heard of us, the Surrey Improvement Partnership is one of six sub regions which, along with several major regional themes and fire and rescue authorities, come together to create Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE). IESE has received significant funding from CLG, which has been dispersed across the South East to fund projects that drive efficiency and/or improvement. SIP has been set up since 2006.

SIP Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of SIP is to bring together all of the local authorities in Surrey and to deliver, through a programme of partnership working, a series of projects that are designed to deliver real improvements and enhanced efficiencies in local government services throughout the county.

Following the successful completion of eight projects in the first round, SIP is now working on a range of diverse projects across Surrey.



Governance Board

The SIP governance structure has a balance of members and officers to ensure that the partnership is clearly and fairly represented. At the member level, the board is comprised of: Councillor David Munro of Surrey County Council (Chairman), Councillor Jean Pearson of Mole Valley District Council, Councillor John Furey of Runnymede Borough Council and Councillor John Kingsbury of Woking Borough Council. At the officer level, the board is comprised of three Borough Chief Executives: Ray Morgan of Woking Borough Council, Stephen Weigel of Tandridge District Council and Roberto Tambini of Spelthorne Borough Council. Michael Jennings, Assistant Chief Executive of Surrey County Council, also sits on the board. The partnership is programme managed by Pino Mastromarco of Woking Borough Council.

The Future

The status of the SIP projects has been discussed within regional thematic board meetings and we can now confirm that all of the SIP projects seeking future funds have received full allocations for year 2.

The Chairman of SIP, Councillor David Munro (Surrey County Council) adds:

"I am delighted to introduce you to the six current SIP projects and hope that you enjoy learning about the progress they have made so far.

Now that we have received year 2 funding, we are looking forward to another busy year of events and activities and plan to keep you informed through regular updates via our website and newsletter."

The current six SIP projects are:

- 1) Enhanced Neighbourhood Engagement
 - 2) Surrey Infrastructure Capacity Project
 - 3) Surreytogether 2
 - 4) Member Development
 - 5) Officer Training and Development
 - 6) Creating Capacity to Address Climate Change.
- Details of the projects are contained within this newsletter.

SIP Website

For all the latest news and information about SIP, take a look at our recently launched website:

www.surreyimprovement.info.

The website is designed to strengthen connections between partners and encourage information sharing. There are links from the homepage to key partners and all six of the current SIP projects, with details about their objectives, how they are progressing and who to contact to get involved. Useful features include an events listing and an update from other partnerships



Project Spotlight: Enhanced Neighbourhood Engagement

Project Manager: Hilary Lombard (Surrey County Council)

This project is working closely with a number of partners to improve community engagement and the delivery of local services.

Current partners include County, District and Borough Councils, Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue, Surrey Primary Care Trust and voluntary bodies.

By working with Local Strategic Partnerships, the project will contribute towards the requirements of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, the Surrey Community Strategy, the Surrey 2020 Vision and requirements of government legislation such as the Duty to Involve and Duty to Cooperate.

The project will also directly address National Indicator (NI) targets NI4 (percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality), NI5 (overall satisfaction with a local area) and NI21 (dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour/crime by local councils and the police). Future work will be informed by MORI research into residents' views on community issues.

Three work streams are progressing:

1) A joint community engagement and consultation framework with a supporting toolkit. An audit of current engagement activity has taken place and this will be used to feed into an action plan for future engagement activity and capacity building.

2) Joint data and information sharing protocols with a joint data repository. An audit of the current situation is taking place in addition to a trial research and data sharing pilot in Woking.

3) Joint commissioning of services in conjunction with local communities. Examples of pilots in action include the bringing together of three Borough Councils to formulate a joint strategy on tackling damage to street furniture and graffiti. Other projects in development include a joint training initiative for front line staff in councils and partners to improve press relations.

For further information, please email: engagement@surreyimprovement.info



Project Spotlight: Surrey Infrastructure Capacity

Project Manager: Damian Testa (Surrey County Council)

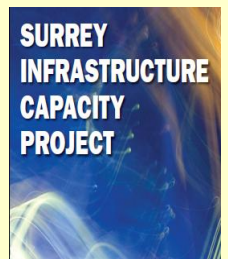
This project is all about sustainable development. It is working towards improving the quality of life for residents and businesses by exploring whether local services are accessible and sufficient to meet community needs. It will achieve this by examining housing, employment, population and economic growth patterns and considering the effects that these might have on current and future infrastructure provision. It will suggest how growth can be managed and will

identify deficits arising from existing development that have not been matched with the delivery of associated infrastructure.

A project board has been established, chaired by David Hill, Chief Executive of Guildford Borough Council. In addition to this, a technical expert group known as the Key Infrastructure/Service Providers Group, will challenge and validate the work of the project. The group comprises around 25 representatives, spanning local government, regional bodies and partnerships, government agencies, national federations and utility companies. There is also a Surrey Infrastructure Forum, who will serve as a consultative body to the project. The Forum's launch event took place in February and was attended by over 125 delegates who came to learn about the project and infrastructure planning.

Consultants have just completed an infrastructure capacity audit to assess what infrastructure is needed to deliver the growth levels projected in the South East Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) and to identify deficits in current provision. Following analysis of the report, the project will produce a set of costed strategic infrastructure schedules that will form the blueprint for infrastructure provision in Surrey. The intention is for these schedules to be used by all infrastructure providers, wider than local government.

For further information, please email: sicp@surreyimprovement.info



Project Spotlight: Surreytogether 2

Project Manager:
Roberto Tambini
(Spelthorne Borough Council)

This project is developing relationships between key leaders, to support the delivery of the Surrey Local Area Agreement and other important priorities. Connections are strengthened between County Council and District Council Chief Executives and leaders, in addition to those at high levels within partner groups such as the Surrey Primary Care Trust, Surrey Police, universities and the voluntary sector. The emphasis is on leadership and its impact on community vitality and sustainability.

One leadership event has already taken place and the next two events are due to occur in July. The events will feature inspirational speakers from the public and private sector, and venues include the Houses of Parliament. Events for portfolio holders have also been planned for July and October this year.

Surreytogether 2 will have a stand at the LGA conference this year to promote the wide benefits of the project.

For further information, please email: together@surreyimprovement.info



Project Spotlight: Member Development

Project Manager: Clive Moore
(Tandridge Borough Council)

This project is in the process of establishing joint working in the county on member training, with a view to achieving efficiencies and service enhancements.

A wide ranging project team to support the project has been established, with key officers from Surrey County Council and the District Councils recruited as part of a developing programme delivery network. This is supported by a Critical Friends Group, consisting of members from across the county, to establish the most appropriate delivery method and content.



Four promotional events have taken place in varying locations across Surrey, to encourage cross county involvement and to give members a chance to establish ownership. These events were supplemented by a survey, sent out to gather qualitative data about needs and desires for member training. This will be used to help tailor the future programming of member events, so that they are relevant to current needs.

The feedback from members will be used to inform a Learning Programme, with the first events planned to start in July this year.

For further information, please email: member@surreyimprovement.info

Project Spotlight: Officer Learning and Development

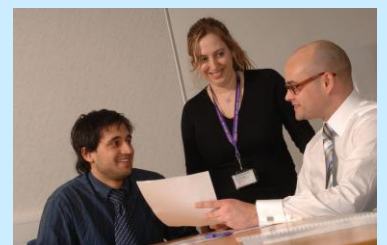
Project Manager: Wendy Jenkins
(Surrey Training Officers' Group)

This project is enabled through the Surrey Training Officers' Group (STOG), an organisation comprising HR and training officers from all 11 Surrey District Councils and the Surrey County Council. The project is working towards increasing the capacity of officers and promoting best practice through a shared training programme, to ensure consistency in standards and save on duplicated effort and money. Improved partnership working and networking opportunities are other key objectives for this SIP project.

Earlier this year, STOG coordinated an Advanced Coaching programme for managers. Post evaluation is taking place with a detailed analysis and report to follow. STOG is also developing a wide ranging mentoring network.

The next step for STOG is to research and commission a shared management development programme across Surrey, which can be offered out to all authorities. STOG will also help with the specific training needs of the other SIP projects.

For further information, please email: stog@surreyimprovement.info



Project Spotlight:

Climate Change

Project Manager: [Ray Morgan](#)
(Woking Borough Council)

Sustainability and positive action to reduce CO₂ emissions are priorities for many councils in Surrey and across the South East. This project is encouraging joint working and sharing good practice throughout the county and the region. Through a series of work-streams, the project will help local authorities build capacity to address climate change National Indicators and the wider challenges of the Climate Change Act targets and priorities.

Recent discussions with the region have confirmed the project's scope and benefits not only to the county, but to the wider region.

Officers of the Surrey Climate Change Partnership (SCCP) have been working together and sharing good practice to enable consistent and robust reporting towards the four local climate change National Indicators (185, 186, 187 and 188).

There has also been significant progress towards establishing a Surrey-wide Climate Change Strategy. Consultants Jacobs have been commissioned to produce this document and they have interviewed each of the Boroughs and Districts in the County to understand levels of activities and projects around climate change.



From this baseline, a range of common objectives can be agreed for the strategy. It will also include a 'menu' of other targets that can be added as appropriate to the individual authority.

Key to the success of the strategy will be member support and engagement. Officers are working with the Energy Saving Trust to provide training sessions this year for elected members within the county, to raise awareness of the project and address benefits and challenges.

For further information, please email: climate@surreyimprovement.info

Regional Roundup

The IESE 2008/09 Annual Report is now available for public viewing. The report highlights achievements made over the last year and outlines examples of best practice from across the South East region, including some of the SIP project work. The report can be accessed from the SIP website.

Local Government Minister John Healey has committed £185 million pounds towards council led Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) to assist them in their work to transform and improve services. Councils received praise for being ahead of targets to achieve £3 billion annual efficiency savings this year, with the current estimate levelled at around £4.2 billion. A further £4 million has been allocated to RIEPs from the CLG and Department of Health, in order to assist them to spread best practice in local health services.

EVENTS

Monday 6 July 1pm
Surreytogether 2 event
This event hosted in London is for leaders and Chief Executives. For further details, please email together@surreyimprovement.info.

Wednesday 13 July
Tandridge Council
Thursday 23 July
Epsom and Ewell Council
Climate change training
These events are for members, in conjunction with the Energy Savings Trust, to address issues of climate change adaptation. For further details, please email climate@surreyimprovement.info

July
Member Development Events
Over July, there will be the first of a series of member development training events. The initial set of seminars will be focused on Communication for Councillor Community Leadership. For further details, please email: member@surreyimprovement.info

Next issue
We will be looking at IESE's ten themed partnerships and showcasing a current SIP project. If you wish to be taken off this mailing list, please email: sip@surreyimprovement.info