

Welcome...

to the latest edition of the Surrey Improvement Partnership (SIP) newsletter. This newsletter will be sent to 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.

The six current SIP projects in progress are:

- 1) Enhanced Neighbourhood Engagement Project
- 2) Surrey Infrastructure Capacity Project
- 3) Surreytogether 2
- 4) Member Development
- 5) Officer Training and Development
- 6) Tackling Climate Change Together.

The projects are working to deliver, through a programme of partnership working, real improvements and enhanced efficiencies in local government services throughout the county. For further information about the projects and contacts, please refer to the SIP website: www.surreyimprovement.info.

Project Highlight: The Surrey Infrastructure Capacity Project

A widespread issue in local government is re-inventing the wheel, each authority individually setting in motion programmes of change and development. The result of this is that time and money can be unnecessarily spent. The SIP Infrastructure Capacity team have addressed this by undertaking a county-wide infrastructure capacity study and by developing costed

infrastructure schedules in conjunction with all 12 Surrey Authorities, key infrastructure providers (transport, utilities, education and health) and other interested stakeholders (the voluntary sector, community services and business).

The report is now available on the SIP website and can be downloaded from: www.surreyimprovement.info/sicp/sicp. It highlights existing deficits and reviews plans for future provision in line with the South East Regional Plan. Together with the costed infrastructure schedules, this aims to ensure that the needs of Surrey are transparent and that efficiencies are maximised where possible through joined up working.

It is hoped that infrastructure and service providers will adjust their capital investment programmes to support the delivery of the schedules. They are intended to be 'living' documents that will be updated and refreshed to ensure that they remain a valuable resource. A training programme will be rolled out shortly to make sure that the schedules are properly understood and utilised to maximum benefit.

The next year's work programme will involve supporting the Surrey boroughs and districts to develop more local level Infrastructure Schedules. Please email sicp@surreyimprovement.info for further information.



New Funding Received from IESE via SIP Bid

The IESE sub-partnerships were recently invited to submit bids for projects that would achieve significant efficiencies and lead to innovations. Surrey was successful and has received funding for a garden waste project, designed to streamline the processing behind garden waste collection services.

Regional Roundup Performance Improvement Theme and Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAAs)

The draft CAAs are due October but will not be published until December. During this time, any authorities concerned with their assessment may wish to contact us at SIP and we can assist in directing them towards sources of support. IESE has a budget to provide support to authorities facing particular challenges identified in their CAA report. For further details, please email: Richard.tyndall@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Local Government Association Conference

This year's conference took place in Harrogate from 30th June to 2nd July. IESE and several of the regional improvement partnerships, including SIP, had stands and provided information to visiting members and officers about the work taking place and how to get involved. There was also a workshop session on Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) and innovative solutions during the economic downturn.

Themed Partnerships

SIP is funded by Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE), which is allocated money directly from central government. In addition to the six sub-regional partnerships and the fire improvement partnership, IESE also oversees ten themed partnerships connected to their Regional Strategy. These themes are aligned to council priorities in the South East. They are:

1) Community Engagement

This theme is supporting approaches to community engagement, empowerment and cohesion.

2) Sustainable Communities

This theme is coordinating research to help councils understand and tackle the long term economic, environmental and employment challenges that communities are facing.

3) Capacity Building

This theme is working to improve the knowledge, skills and capacity of members and officers in a partnership context.

4) Performance Improvement

This theme is helping local authorities in the South East to be amongst the best in the country and to avoid low scores in council and area assessments.

5) Waste Resource Management

This theme is working to achieve savings through a partnership approach to waste management, for example joint procurement.

6) Commodity Procurement

This theme is supporting local authorities to make well

informed best value procurement decisions.

7) Corporate Transformation

This theme is helping councils to improve services through business improvement processes, e.g. peer review.

8) Adult Care and Children's Services

This theme is working to increase savings for councils in the area of social care, through frameworks, new technology and other joint initiatives.

9) Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

This theme is helping local authorities to complete their LAAs and to build strong and effective LSPs, supported by a peer led capacity building programme called Progress through Partnership. There are funding sources attached to support local authorities with particular LSP challenges.

10) Construction and Asset Management

This theme is helping councils to achieve savings on the millions spent on construction, consultancy and related commodities.

Each of these themes have been set up to drive best practice across all councils in the South East and the themes exist to support authorities in a variety of ways. If your council is interested in any of these areas, please contact SIP on the details listed below and we can put you in contact with the appropriate theme lead.

DATES TO NOTE

Monday 19 October 2009

HG Wells, Woking
'Wheels in Motion' Active Travel Planning Regional Conference

This conference on transport, health and sustainability issues is supported by the climate change project team, with information available for delegates on the project in addition to an in depth workshop session. For further details, please email: climate@surreyimprovement.info

Thursday 22 October 2009

HG Wells, Woking
Surrey Infrastructure Forum

This is the next scheduled event following the successful launch of the forum in February. There will a review of the progress made so far, following the Infrastructure Study, and plans for the next year. For further details, please email: sicp@surreyimprovement.info

Monday 23 November 2009

Surreytogether2 event

This event is for Council Leaders and Chief Executives, to bring them together in the spirit of collaboration with key local partners. For further details, please email: together@surreyimprovement.info

Contact us

If there are any areas contained within this newsletter that you would like further information about, please call or email us on the contact details below.

Next issue...

We will highlight more of the SIP projects. If you wish to be taken off this mailing list, please email the address below.