

Notes from meeting with Niger Pargiter (Area Investment Framework - East Sussex Economic Partnership) and Wally Lambert, Paul Mephram and TS on 20th February 2004

It quickly became apparent that no funding was available for the coming financial year April 2004/ March 2005 as it had already been allocated (since Jan 10th 2004).

Funding for AIF's 1st year from SEEDA for East Sussex is £750k for the coming year; £1.5m is expected for the next year and a further £3m anticipated for the 3rd year.

£250k has been allocated for the rural areas. Funding must be spent on a mix of revenue and capital (e. assets/buildings). Matched funding would be needed. No one town can be promised any funding and no financial support would be given for individual 'pilot' projects but a 'joint towns' project could find favour.

However, some of the priorities and action plans outlined by The Business Policy Group notes/key action plans fit in with the AIF strategies and NP could start work soon with us on projects that could be Crowborough related, discuss the best way forward if agreement could be made with decisions being made in September for possible inclusion in the AIF budget plans and priorities for the 'Market Towns' aspect of the AIF Strategies for the year 2005/06.

NP would start discussions with ESCC colleagues on the 23rd February. NP would ask that suitable funding sources were sought; he said bids could be written for us and he could broker meetings with appropriate business support agencies who may be alternative sources of funding and support.

A letter would be sent by WL/TS to NP setting out our priority needs and plans.

In summary, there is no funding in the short term but there is a possibility of 'significant' funding (NP did not consider £5k / 10K to be 'significant') from April 2005. A suitable project would need to be agreed and worked up to a high standard before September 2004 for it to be considered by ESEP Board.

The view was taken we needed to identify future funding beyond 2004 and hope that shorter term funding could also be identified for our immediate pressing projects.