

Agenda Item 10
Report NPA36/18

Name of External Body	Rural West Sussex Partnership
Member	Norman Dingemans
Date of Meeting	5 December 2018
Issues raised at the meeting of significance to the SDNPA	
1	In March 2018 the RWSP structure was changed to make it an outsourced contract rather than an employed process. The SDNPA agreed to manage the contract.
2	The Director's report covered present funding streams and future funding coming on line. This covered ESIF/Leader/EAFRD/Digital Vouchers/C2C Growth Grants/UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The C2C Strategic Economic Plan and the future Local Industrial Strategy were discussed.
3	One of the main points of discussion was the lack of recognition, by the LEP, that the Rural Areas have many businesses that are not agricultural and the LEP seems to be focussing on the Urban areas at the expense of the Rural areas and direct their funding accordingly. RWSP is trying hard to correct this misapprehension.
Any issues on which the views of SDNPA Members are sought	
1	RWSP. The SDNPA should continue to support the RWSP beyond March 2019. Presently we give a £10K grant each year.
2	Mobile phone companies are removing some of the older telecommunications masts without accepting that this may remove the signal from many rural areas. They are using coverage maps that are not accurate so if anyone has lost signal because a mast has been removed please inform RWSP via their web site.
3	The SDNPA should take every opportunity to remind the LEP that there are many SMEs in the rural areas of the SDNP.
Related documents – e.g. reports or minutes – and / or Hyperlinks	
1	
2	
	Date of next meeting April 2019

