

**Chichester District Council**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE 19 September 2013**

**Partnerships Report 2013**

**1. Contacts**

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**2. Recommendations**

**2.1. That the Annual Partnerships report be noted.**

**2.2. That the Manhood Peninsula Partnership and the Healthier Chichester Partnership be reviewed on completion of their annual action plans and any non-compliance issues be reported back to the committee.**

**3. Background**

3.1. At a special meeting of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on the 23 July 2012 the following recommendations were made:

- (a) The committee should receive an Annual Partnerships report on the effectiveness of the council's strategic partnerships focussing on governance arrangements and risk monitoring.
- (b) The council's partnerships, both strategic and operational, should be reviewed during the council's annual service planning process to ensure that they are still achieving their outcomes, that risk registers are up to date and regularly reviewed and the council's strategic objectives continue to be met.
- (c) That the role of members who serve on partnerships is made clear in the partnerships guidance document particularly in relation to the requirements for annual reporting.

3.2 At its June 2013 meeting this committee considered an audit report on partnerships as part of the annual report to Council on governance arrangements.

**4. Progress**

4.1. The Partnerships Guidance was revised in line with the requests at 3.1 and it was subsequently agreed by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee at its meeting on 29 November 2012. The guidance was published on the council's intranet and circulated to officers as an information piece in the 'Team Brief' publication in early February 2013.

- 4.2. The service planning process was commenced earlier than planned in January 2013 and Managers were requested to include information on partnerships within these plans. However, regardless of the guidance circulated to officers, the plans included partnerships that do not meet the partnership definition set out in the guidance. Amongst the types of partnerships described were local and national networks, statutory agencies and contracts/commissioning arrangements.
- 4.3. Between July and August 2013 the Partnership Officer has been meeting with Assistant Directors to update the information held on the council's strategic partnerships, to review the service plans and to explain in more detail the partnerships guidance. The annual partnerships report, which details the council's strategic partnerships, is attached at appendix 1.

## **5. Analysis of Partnerships and recommendations**

- 5.1. There are currently 10 strategic level partnerships that the council is involved with, as set out in the annual partnerships report. They all have governance arrangements in place.
- 5.2. Two of the strategic partnerships (Healthier Chichester Partnership and Manhood Peninsula Partnership) need to finalise their action plans, and any non-compliance issues with partnership procedures to be reported back to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

## **6. Community impact and corporate risks**

- 6.1. By not completing a review of the main strategic partnerships of the council we risk council resources being directed into partnerships that do not meet the council's priorities, waste our resources, do not have a clear goal, and could bring the council into disrepute. By ensuring that appropriate governance is in place in these partnerships and their risks managed we can ensure the quality of their work and their benefit to the local community.

## **7. Other Implications**

|   | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| <b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b>              |     | ✓  |
| <b>Climate Change:</b>                    |     | ✓  |
| <b>Human Rights and Equality Impact:.</b> |     | ✓  |
| <b>Safeguarding:</b>                      |     | ✓  |

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1. Appendix 1 – Chichester District Council Partnerships report 2013

## **9. Background Papers**

- 9.1. Chichester District Council Partnerships Guidance 2012 – Corporate Governance & Audit Committee agenda 29 November 2012