

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER
2011

PARTNERSHIP REGISTERS – ANNUAL REVIEW

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

To report results of the annual review of Partnership Registers.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION that:</u>

the committee considers the report and comments on how exposure to risk within partnership working is managed.

1.0 Background

1.1 On 30 November 2010 the Committee considered the Partnership Protocol, which was endorsed as a helpful and appropriate management tool for identifying and managing risks associated with partnership working.

1.2 The Director of Customer and Community Services also relayed (verbally) the findings of reviews of individual partnerships. An annual review was requested by the Committee, so the results are conveyed in this report.

2.0 Report

2.1 As part of the risk management process Officers undertook a review of significant partnerships during October 2011.

2.2 Officers responsible for any new significant Partnership completed the 'Register of Individual Partnerships' (Appendix B of the

Protocol) and “Issues to consider” (Appendix C of the Protocol) where appropriate. For partnerships already included in the Register of Partnerships (Appendix A of the Protocol) Officers updated the documents as required and provided a summary of any significant changes.

- 2.3 At its meeting of 30 November 2010 Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee supported the inclusion in the protocol of wording which required the provision of an exit strategy and that the Register of Individual Partnerships should be amended to state the purpose of the partnership. Both those changes were incorporated.
- 2.4 The updated Register of Partnerships which includes a summary of any significant changes is provided as **Essential Reference Paper B**.
- 2.5 The results were reviewed at Corporate Management Team in November 2011.
- 2.6 While there have been a number of changes to partnerships over the last 12 months, existing partnerships have experienced no significant changes in risk since last year and no new high risk Partnerships were entered into. Therefore it has not been necessary to seek additional detail or assurance during this year’s review.
- 2.7 Whilst technically outside of the scope of the Protocol, the Director of Internal Services considered and applied principles of the Protocol to the Shared Internal Audit Service and the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service.
- 2.8 Any significant business risks are incorporated into the Strategic risk register and operational risks are recorded on departmental risk registers. These are discussed at team meetings, and Corporate Management Team, at least four times a year. All risks and mitigating actions can be viewed by Members on the Council’s performance management software, Covalent.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper ‘A’**.

Background papers

Report on Partnership Protocol presented to Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee on 30 November 2010.

Executive Member: Councillor M Tindale, Executive Member for Finance

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Graham Mully, Risk Assurance Officer

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate):</i></p>	<p>Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i></p> <p>Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>The Local Government Act 2000 gives local authorities wide statutory power to do anything that it considers likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the area. This provides opportunities for the Council to work with partners, however the Council can only participate in activities that it has a statutory power to undertake and must comply with its constitution.</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>Where partnerships manage significant levels of funds, responsibility for their safe management is designated to a responsible authority. Responsible authorities include district councils, county councils, constabulary, police authority etc</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p><i>None specific to this report</i></p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>Use of the register and protocol ensures significant risks are identified and managed through the council's risk management processes</p>