
REPORT TO:	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	17th MARCH 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES Kevin Stackhouse (595811) Kevin.stackhouse@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC: u/ks/partnership policy/covering paper
SUBJECT:	PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP POLICY	REF:
WARD (S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM 14

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Members adopt the proposed Partnership Policy, as set out at **Appendix A**.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To present to Committee a Partnership Policy for approval and formal adoption.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Council has a track record of working in effective and efficient partnerships. Partnership working is a valuable mechanism for targeting cross cutting policy and operational issues, and it can be an effective and efficient means of sharing limiting resources.

3.2 Due to increasing pressure on public finances, changes in Government Policy and local needs, the scope for and number of partnerships are increasing. Therefore, it is essential that the Council evaluates its partnerships on a regular basis.

3.3 Arising from the Council's 2010/11 approved Audit Plan, a risk assessment identified the need to review the governance arrangements for partnership working. At the request of the Council, the review was undertaken by Derby City Council's Internal Audit Service.

3.4 The audit was aimed at highlighting control weaknesses and risks in the Council's overall approach to governance of partnerships, and to ensure that improvements in control are made across the Council to mitigate these risks for all future partnership working.

3.5 The audit identified a number of good practices that were in operation. Notably, the South Derbyshire Partnership conformed to CIPFA's financial reporting requirements and those of the Accountable Body.

- 3.6 The Audit identified areas in the Council's system of control that could be enhanced and in particular the strengthening a corporate approach to control and review. Improvements that have been identified are contained within the proposed Partnership Policy which is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 3.7 The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the effective management of both existing and new partnerships and to offer guidance directly to those individuals who are involved in partnership working. The governance arrangements to be observed in undertaking and maintaining partnerships are also outlined.
- 3.8 The Partnership Policy (if adopted) will be published and steps to maintain, evaluate and coordinate each of its partnerships through a Partnership Register will be implemented during the service planning process which is to commence in May 2011.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the Partnership Policy.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The Partnership Policy supports the Council's vision for the District and the strategic priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The Council recognises the importance to have robust governance arrangements in place for partnership working.
- 6.2 This proposed Partnership Policy provides a framework for ensuring that high standards of governance are maintained and an evaluation of its partnerships is undertaken on a regular basis to ensure that they are both fully contributing to improvements in service delivery and that they are operating in an effective and efficient way.

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1. None.