

**REPORT TO THE SCRUTINY PANEL RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE  
MEETING ON 25 FEBRUARY 2016**

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**Status:** For Information & Comment  
**Title:** Annual Review of Partnership Register  
**Originator:** Tom Day, Community Partnerships Manager  
**Where from:** Corporate Management Team  
**Where to next:** Not applicable

Objective: To provide the Panel with information on the Councils current partnership arrangements.

1. Outcome sought from Panel

1.1 That the Partnerships contained within the Councils Partnership Register (Attached at Appendix A) be noted.

2 Background

2.1 The Council is involved in a broad and complex range of partnerships at a strategic and operational level. It is therefore important to establish a co-ordinated approach to partnership work across the Council to ensure the best outcomes and use of limited resources.

2.2 Developing a strategic approach to partnerships was identified as a priority in a 2010 Internal Audit Report and as part of the Council's Transformation programme.

2.3 The initial Partnership Policy and Register were agreed by Executive on 10 February 2014. This was updated by Executive on the 15 March 2015 to align with the Councils Risk and Opportunity Framework. Utilising the Councils Risk and Opportunity Framework in the evaluation of partnership working, rather than a separate framework, ensured a simple, consistent approach to risk and opportunity management across the organisation and its business.

2.4 In summary, the benefits to the Council of working in partnership may include one or more of the following;

- Cashable Savings - this could be either additional income or reduced expenditure.
- Service Quality - this could be increased customer satisfaction or providing a more joined up or integrated service.
- Improved Speed or Throughput – this could be sharing work.

- Risk Mitigation – this could be through increasing resilience, avoiding future costs, service degradation or reputational risk.
- External Funding or Investment - this could be for the organisation or to benefit wider district e.g. Job Creation

2.5 The updated Partnership Policy (Appendix B) sets out the definition and processes the Council will follow when working in partnership. A partnership is defined as an arrangement between Harborough District Council and one or more independent organisations to work together in order to achieve a common goal. This usually involves sharing risk and reward, joint decision making and pooling and/or alignment of resources. The Risk and Opportunity Scoring Criteria are outlined in Appendix C.

2.6 Partnerships are therefore different to:

- Officer networks or forums, which meet to support best practice
- Contractual arrangements where the Council has delegated a function.
- An External Body or Trust which Councils may be invited to take part in.

2.7 The Executive at its meeting on 15 March 2015 resolved that the Partnership Register is reviewed annually to ensure it remains up to date.

2.8 The Partnership Register has been reviewed in February 2016 and can be found at Appendix A.

### 3 Points for discussion

3.1 Additions/deletions/amendments to the Partnership Register for 2016.

<b>Partnership name</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Economic Growth Board	Added to register. This is a new entity that will act as the Shadow Combined Authority and is therefore strategically important.
A5 Member and Officer Partnership	Added to register. Harborough now attends this partnership following increased activity at Magna Park.
Soar Valley Partnership	Added to register. Harborough now attends this partnership due to the benefits realised from the identical Welland Valley Partnership.
District Council Health and Housing Services Member Advisory Group	Added to register. Build understanding, commitment to maximising District Council contribution to Public Health and Housing
Stronger Rural Leads	Renamed to Community Inclusion Partnership to reflect more accurately the work the group covers.

### 3.2 Partnerships that have changed risk / opportunity score for 2016.

Partnership name	Comment
Leicestershire Rural Partnership	Increased opportunity due to availability of European Funding for rural projects (LEADER funding)
Leicestershire & Rutland Sport	Reduced opportunity but increased need to influence due to significant reductions in funding for physical activity that will impact HDC services.
Think Family Partnership	It was formerly known as the 0-19 Steering Group and the risk of leaving the partnership has been downgraded as this partnership no longer commissions the Children Centre Programme
Harborough Health & Wellbeing Partnership	Risk (of leaving the partnership) downgraded as Public Health has reduced resources to local partnerships although there is still an opportunity to influence resources. Meeting frequency reduced.
Leicestershire Health & Wellbeing Board	Risk of leaving the Partnership downgraded to amber from HDC organisational perspective as primary focus is Health and Social Care. However, HDC contributes to Health and Housing Agenda and supports the development of joint initiatives such as Lightbulb, which may result in upgrading again once full implications known.

#### 4 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

4.1 Equality is considered on an individual partnership basis.

#### 5 Impact on Communities

5.1 The outcome of partnerships are to increase effectiveness or efficiency of services which ultimately benefit the community.

#### 6 Legal Issues

6.1 There may be legal issues associated with joining or exiting a partnership. The Partnership Policy sets out key governance arrangements for partnership working.

#### 7 Resource Issues

7.1 The Partnership Register and Partnership Policy aim to ensure that the Council is involved with partnerships that will deliver HDC priorities, and that resources are deployed effectively.

#### 8 Community Safety Implications

8.1 There are 3 partnerships within the register that support community safety work.

9 Carbon Management Implications

9.1 There is one partnership that directly supports carbon management and a number of others which indirectly support this work.

10 Risk Management Implications

10.1 Partnerships have been assessed for Risk and Opportunity as set out in the Partnerships Policy and Register.

11 Consultation

11.1 The Partnership Register has been compiled in consultation with the Corporate Management Team, Service Managers and Lead Officers.

12 Background Papers

12.1 Partnership Policy and Register, Executive on 15 March 2015

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**Previous report(s): Partnership Policy and Register, Resources and Performance Scrutiny Panel on 16 January 2014**

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure:**

**Appendix:**

**A. Partnership Register for 2016/17**

**B. Partnership Policy**

**C. Risk and Opportunity Scoring Criteria**