

## PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

### 1 SUMMARY

1.1 The Council has a programme to review its major partnerships with approximately five reviews each year. This report presents the results of the reviews undertaken of the following partnerships that the Council is involved in and that have not previously been reviewed. The reviews were on the following partnerships:-

- Castle Point & Rochford Drug and Alcohol Reference Group
- Essex Waste Management Advisory Board
- Groundwork Trust South Essex

A review was also undertaken of the Thames Gateway South Essex Housing Strategy Forum, however a response is still awaited from the partnership to the issues raised within the report. This review will be reported into this Committee once such a response has been received.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The reviews considered four key components of each partnership, and these are:-

- The need for the partnership to continue
- The commitment, role and responsibilities of the various partners
- The value of the partnership to the Council, and its own role and responsibilities
- The governance, performance management, financial and risk management arrangements of the Partnership

2.2 The outcome of each review has been sent to the relevant Partnership for their comments. The results of each review and any responses received are detailed below.

### 3 CASTLE POINT & ROCHFORD DRUG AND ALCOHOL REFERENCE GROUP

3.1 The aim of the Partnership is to prevent and reduce local drug and alcohol problems in order to achieve the drug and alcohol related aims of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

3.2 This Partnership is a sub group of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and its membership comprises:-

Rochford District Council  
South East Essex PCT  
Essex Police  
EYPDAS

Castle Point Borough Council  
National Probation Service  
CDAS/SEPT  
Essex DAAT

Essex Youth Services  
Neighbourhood Watch  
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Essex County Council  
HMP Bullwood Hall  
Community Groups

In addition any other organisations with a professional interest in reducing drug or alcohol misuse are welcome to join.

- 3.3 Rochford District CDRP contributes towards projects that are financially beyond the reach of the partnership in response to the Action Plan and objectives. This is done through the Safer and Stronger Communities Grant.
- 3.4 Cllr Mrs Butcher and the Assistant Community Safety Officer are the representatives for Rochford District Council. Other officers occasionally attend, if required.
- 3.5 The partnership is benefitting the local community with a number of initiatives being run throughout the year in an attempt to cut drug and alcohol related crime. The partnership has provided a valuable forum for the development and sharing of strategies to combat drug and alcohol related crime.
- 3.6 The review concluded that there were no issues with this partnership, and funding should continue.

#### **4 ESSEX WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

- 4.1 The purpose of the Essex Waste Management Advisory Board is to develop and agree a county-wide strategy for the future management of municipal solid waste. This partnership is the body that oversees the Thames Gateway Area Waste Joint Committee (AWJC) which was audited during 2006/07, as well as two further AWJCs that cover other parts of Essex.
- 4.2 Membership is comprised of one Councillor from each Council in Essex with the exception of Essex County Council which has five members, Southend Borough Council which has two members and Thurrock Council which has chosen to withdraw. Rochford District Council is represented by Cllr Starke with appropriate officer support, as required.
- 4.3 Rochford District Council makes no financial contribution to the partnership, instead contributing to the AWJC which was audited in 2006/07 and found to be effective.
- 4.4 The partnership has provided a valuable forum for sharing information and expertise and gave assistance to Rochford District Council in securing the new waste management services contract which could potentially enable the Council to meet recycling targets. In addition it has devised a waste strategy for Essex which should enable the Council to ensure its long term waste management requirements are met.
- 4.5 The review concluded that there were no issues with this partnership and membership should continue.

## 5 GROUNDWORK TRUST SOUTH ESSEX

- 5.1 The main aim of the Partnership is to create a society made up of sustainable communities that are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper.
- 5.2 The membership of the partnership is
- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rochford District Council  | Castle Point Borough Council    |
| Basildon District Council  | Southend Borough Council        |
| Thurrock Council           | Essex County Council            |
| Thames Gateway South Essex | Federation of Groundwork Trusts |
- 5.3 The Council is represented by Cllr Cutmore on the Main Board and by the Head of Community Services on the officer groups.
- 5.4 Rochford District Council's financial contribution to the Partnership is £5,000 for the first two years, rising to £10,000 for the following four. This is in line with the contributions of other partners.
- 5.5 To date the outputs that have directly benefitted Rochford have been limited. However, it should be considered that it is only 18 months since the inception of the partnership. A series of visioning days were recently held, attended by Rochford officers to develop projects across all member districts and this is reflected in the 2008/09 business plan.
- 5.6 The review concluded the partnership has great potential benefit to the Council and that funding should continue. It is felt that a further review in 2009/10 would be beneficial to assess the progress of the partnership to Rochford.

## 6 NEXT REVIEWS

- 6.1 The intention is to have a rolling programme of reviews of the major partnerships that the Council is involved in. The partnerships identified for the next tranche of reviews are:-
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
  - Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)
  - Healthier Communities and Older People Partnership
  - Economic Development Regeneration Group

## 7 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Partnership working is becoming an increasingly important way for local authorities to work. It is therefore important that the Council has a risk management process that specifically considers the risks associated with significant partnerships and obtains assurance about the management of those risks. These reviews form part of that assurance.

**8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 One of the partnerships under review has been set up to tackle crime and disorder issues and plays an important part in encouraging community involvement.

**9 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Rochford District Council's financial contribution to the individual partnerships has been included in the body of the report. Partnership working is a way of improving value for money as evidenced by the savings achieved through the Essex on-line partnership, previously reported as part of the 2006/07 reviews. Partnership working will become an increasingly important part of the assessment of the Council's Use of Resources. One of the Level 4 criteria for excellent practice under Value for Money is for the Council to have a clear understanding of the total resources at the disposal of the partnerships and that there is a track record of partnerships delivering improved Value for Money. These reviews have provided evidence that the Council is meeting this particular criterion.

**10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The Council needs to ensure that there are sound governance arrangements in place for significant partnerships so that issues of liability are addressed and managed.

**11 RECOMMENDATION**

- 11.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That the findings of the reviews be endorsed.
  - (2) That the next reviews, as detailed in the report, be agreed.

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**Background Papers:-**

Partnership Reviews

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