

ISSUES ARISING FROM COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

- 1.1 This item of business was referred to the Community Services Committee by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 22 November 2005 with a number of recommendations.
- 1.2 The Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee met on 22 November to draw together the conclusions of the recent meetings held to review a number of the Council's partnerships and to agree the key findings.
- 1.3 It was agreed that these could be brought together under two headings – 'general' in relation to those partnerships looked at and 'specific' in relation to each individual partnership reviewed.
- 1.4 The Partnerships reviewed had been the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership (TGSE), the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), the Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership (CYPSYP) and the Castle Point and Rochford Joint Health Partnership Board.
- 1.5 Attached to this report is the report which went to the Community Overview & Committee at the outset of the review on 21 June 2005, together with the detailed papers which had been produced for each of the partnerships reviewed and the minutes from the meetings held on 22 September, 12 October, 25 October and 1, 3 and 22 November 2005.
- 1.6 The key issues under consideration had been as follows:-
 - The value of the partnership, its role and responsibilities.
 - The District's role/responsibilities within the partnership.
 - What the Council and the community get out of the partnership. Does it add value? How does it tie in with the Council's objectives and the things the Council wishes to do?
 - Governance structures and roles between the partners.
 - Achievements and overall performance of the partnership.
 - Political representational and financial risks for the Council related to the partnership.

- Pressures and potential changes to the partnership.

1.7 It was important to note that there had been a consistently positive view of the way in which the Council contributed to each of the partnerships reviewed, to the extent that partnerships such as the LSP and the CDRP would not properly function without the support and commitment of the Council.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 As a result of the general conclusions reached by Members, it is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That definitions around 'partnerships' be clarified, as opposed to structures such as 'outside bodies'.
- (2) That a Council-wide 'Partnership' Guidance document be produced to provide a clear framework for determining whether to enter into partnership arrangements and the factors to be taken into account in ensuring effective partnership working. This could include a definition in relation to (1).
- (3) That terms of reference be requested from each of the partnerships the Council is currently involved with, together with details on governance, funding arrangements and performance management. This information can then be held in a central register.
- (4) That the register compiled as a result of (3) be used as a basis to formally review the Council's involvement in partnerships every 3 years, commencing in Spring 2006.
- (5) That such a review exclude those key Partnerships evaluated as part of this review.
- (6) That as a matter of standard practice, each Partnership the Council is involved in be asked to remind each of its participants every year of their roles and responsibilities in connection with the Partnership, and to reconfirm their commitment to the Partnership.
- (7) That the Member Training and Development Programme include a section around 'Partnership' working, the Partnerships the Council is involved in, and the roles and responsibilities of Members working in partnership structures.
- (8) That the minutes of the meetings of the key partnerships, the subject of this review, be appended to the Members' Bulletin for information purposes.

- 2.2 In drawing together the conclusions gathered from the review of individual partnerships, it is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership

- (9) That a Rochford Steering Group, which had not met for some time, be re-established, with a view to considering whether it should be combined with the delivery steering group operating in Castle Point. This should be determined in conjunction with TGSE and Castle Point Borough Council and operational as soon as practicable.

Local Strategic Partnership

- (10) That the Partnership be requested to look at its governance, reporting arrangements, membership and performance management in the light of the emerging Local Area Agreement (LAA) process.
- (11) That the Partnership be asked to maximise an effective working relationship with the Castle Point LSP, to examine common agenda items. However, it is recognised that the growth of any joint partnership needed to be organic rather than enforced.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

- (12) That the Partnership should be requested to focus on partner commitment and work sharing and improvements in performance management over the next 12 months. As a key partnership, it is important for the Council to maintain its attendance and commitment, particularly in the light of the emerging LAA process and the possible restructuring of the Police network.

Joint Health Partnership Board with Castle Point

- (13) That Member/officer presence be retained on this Board in order to retain the contact with the Primary Care Trust, but on a much reduced scale of 1 Member and 1 officer only, as opposed to the present arrangement of up to 3 Members and 2 officers.

Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership

- (14) That this evolving Partnership be asked to provide further information to enable the Council to determine its proper level of commitment to this body; in particular clarification was required around how the District Youth Strategy Group fitted with CYPSP.

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Background Papers:-

None

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