

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Corporate Governance Committee
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Finance Project Officer

20 December 2007

PARTNERSHIP RISK MANAGEMENT

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Corporate Governance Committee's approval of the process adopted for establishing effective partnership risk management at South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC).

Background

2. In October 2005, the Audit Commission published a report entitled Governing Partnerships. This recommended reviewing partnerships within public bodies to identify the level of risk involved with partnership working and to ensure that there is greater accountability. The Audit Commission's report defined a partnership as 'an agreement between two or more independent bodies to work collectively to achieve an objective'.

Considerations

3. Executive Management Team (EMT) has been going through a process of identifying the Council's partnerships and their significance. The next stage is to risk assess the most strategic partnerships and identify the standards of governance the authority wishes to apply to its partnerships. A workshop is being arranged in January 2008 to facilitate this.
4. From that workshop, actions will be agreed to ensure that any high risk partnerships have robust governance arrangements in place. A partnership register will be developed and a toolkit designed to similarly assess other partnerships. This will enable the authority to ensure that risk is managed effectively in its partnerships.
5. It is proposed that a further report be presented to the March 2008 meeting of the Committee on the outcome of the workshop and actions resulting from it.

Implications

6.	Financial	There are no immediate financial implications resulting from this report. The cost of the workshop (paragraph 3) will be met from funding available under the Council's insurance arrangements.
	Legal	Any legal requirements with regard to partnerships will be identified as part of this process.
	Staffing	SCDC staff will be participating in the partnerships that secure the greatest benefit for the Council and the wider community.
	Risk Management	The partnership review and workshop will enable the council to reduce and manage risks associated with partnerships.
	Equal Opportunities	The partnership review has no inherent equal opportunities implications.

Consultations

7. East Cambridgeshire District Council, which has recently carried out a similar review, were consulted about the process. Members of EMT and other relevant managers have participated in the review thus far.

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

8.	Affordable Homes	The proposals in this report contribute to the Council's efficient use of resources and effective governance of its partnerships.
	Customer Service	
	Northstowe and other growth areas	
	Quality, Accessible Services	
	Village Life	
	Sustainability	
	Partnership	

Conclusions/Summary

9. SCDC is involved in a broad range of partnerships. This review will enable partnership risk management processes to be embedded and have a positive effect on the authority's Use of Resources score. The review will also enable resources to be focused on the most strategic partnerships for the authority and the community.

Recommendations

10. Corporate Governance Committee is recommended to approve the process set out above for establishing effective partnership risk management.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None unpublished

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