

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 23 November 2020

Report of: Director of Leisure and Community

Subject: PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE REPORT

SUMMARY

This report provides members of the Committee with an overview of the governance arrangements in place for any partnerships that Fareham Borough Council is part of.

The Audit and Governance Committee's areas of responsibility for partnerships are to review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee: -

- a) notes the contents of the report;
- b) requests further information or clarification on any Significant Partnerships where members have concerns over the governance arrangements in place;
and
- c) receives an annual update as a mechanism for ensuring partnerships have appropriate governance measures in place.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police (2018) sets out CIPFA's view on the role and functions of an Audit Committee. This states: "Audit committees are a key component of an authority's governance framework. Their function is to provide an independent and high-level resource to support good governance and strong public financial management."
2. As part of that governance framework, the Committee should "consider the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements and the control environment, reviewing the risk profile of the organisation and assurances that action is being taken on risk related issues, including partnerships and collaborations with other organisations."
3. This report details the current partnerships that the Council is a part of and provides information regarding the governance arrangements for each partnership, allowing the committee to discharge its responsibility as detailed above.

PARTNERSHIPS

4. An annual report by the Customer Service Manager is reported to the Chief Executive's Management Team (CXMT). The Council's partnerships are categorised as either 'Significant' or 'Less Significant'. The Council's definition of a significant partnership is a partnership that:
 - i. is a legal requirement or based on statutory guidance; or
 - ii. commissions or delivers activities at a borough wide or local level that contribute substantially towards the Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 outcomes; and
 - iii. there is a significant risk to the Council if there is under-performance in this area.
5. CXMT has responsibility for identifying which partnerships are significant and when a partnership has changed from significant to less significant.
6. The annual report to CXMT in September 2020 identified 10 significant and 4 less significant partnerships.
7. The Council did not enter into any new partnerships during 2019/20.
8. No partnerships were reclassified as significant/less significant during 2019/20.
9. No partnerships ended during 2019/20.

SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS

10. Each Significant Partnership has a key officer assigned to it. The report to CXMT includes details from the key officer involved as to how the partnership

has performed in the last year, including any issues and key achievements. The key officer for each partnership also provides a Red, Amber or Green rating (RAG rating) for each partnership:

Red – The partnership is not performing

Amber – The partnership needs to improve its performance

Green – The partnership is progressing well

11. The performance for each partnership is discussed, scrutinised and challenged at CXMT. The annual review of Significant Partnerships report can be found as Appendix A, which has been taken directly from the report to CXMT.

12. Where a rating of Amber or Red has been given, officers have been asked to provide further information on any steps being taken to address underperformance, details of which are included within the narrative of Appendix A. The following partnerships were rated as Amber or Red:

Project Integra - Red

13. A summary of the results can be found below:

Red	Amber	Green	Total
1 (10%)	0 (0%)	9 (90%)	10

14. In addition to the annual report to CXMT, key officers were asked to provide additional information as to the governance arrangements surrounding the partnership.

15. Consideration was given to the Council's Partnership Governance Framework which requires all significant partnerships to demonstrate the following arrangements:

- Procedures for dealing with conflicts of interest
- Annual review of membership and opportunity to select a chairman
- Risk management arrangements
- Performance management framework with measurable outcomes
- Consultation with the local community and complaints procedures.

16. Responses to governance questions can be found at Appendix B.

17. Appendix B is presented as a one-off report to Members. Should a new partnership occur or there be significant changes to a partnership, updated details will be brought to Member's attention within the next annual report.

LESS SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS

18. The annual review of Less Significant Partnerships report can be found at Appendix C, which has been taken directly from the report to CXMT. Each Less Significant Partnership has also been given a RAG rating, as detailed within the Appendix. It also includes a summary of any issues and achievements and notes whether a partnership agreement is in place. No partnerships were rated as Amber or Red.

RISK ASSESSMENT

19. There are no risks associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

20. The Council has robust partnership arrangements in place for its fourteen partnerships, and governance arrangements are in place for all Significant Partnerships. Regular monitoring of each partnership takes place and an overview report is presented to the Chief Executive's Management Team on an annual basis. Arrangements are in place for Members to request further information or clarification on any Significant Partnerships where there are concerns or queries regarding the governance arrangements in place.

Appendices:

Appendix A – CXMT annual review of Significant Partnership performance report (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix B – Significant Partnerships Governance

Appendix C – CXMT annual review of Less Significant Partnership performance report

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: CXMT Annual Review of Partnerships 2019/20
The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police (2018)

Enquiries:

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