

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 27 September 2021

Report of: Director of Leisure and Community

Subject: PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE REPORT

SUMMARY

This report provides members of the Committee with an overview of the annual performance of each of the partnerships that Fareham Borough Council is part of, and also allows for Members to request further information or clarification over the governance arrangements in place.

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; and
- b) requests further information or clarification on any Significant Partnerships where members have concerns over the governance arrangements 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 their performance over the last year.
4. Previously, the Committee considered the governance arrangements in place for each Significant partnership, allowing for the committee to discharge its responsibility as detailed above.

PARTNERSHIPS

5. An annual report by the Customer Service Manager is presented 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.
6. CXMT has responsibility for identifying which partnerships are significant and when a partnership has changed from significant to less significant.
7. The annual report to CXMT in July 2021 identified 10 significant and 4 less significant partnerships.
8. The Council did not enter into any new partnerships during 2020/21.
9. No partnerships were reclassified as significant/less significant during 2020/21.
10. No partnerships ended during 2020/21, however the CCTV Partnership is due to end in October 2021.
11. Since the last review, the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership has undertaken a rebranding exercise and is now known as Coastal Partners.

SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS

12. Each Significant Partnership has a lead officer assigned to it. The report to CXMT includes details from the officer involved as to how the partnership has performed over the last year, including any issues and key achievements, and also notes whether a partnership agreement is in place. The lead officer for each partnership provides a Red, Amber or Green rating (RAG rating) for each partnership:

- (a) **Red** – The partnership is not performing
- (b) **Amber** – The partnership needs to improve its performance
- (c) **Green** – The partnership is progressing well

13. 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.

14. 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 partnership was rated as Red:

- (a) Project Integra - Red

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

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

16. The Partnership Governance report was last presented to the Audit and Governance Committee in November 2020 and included additional information regarding the governance arrangements surrounding each partnership, provided by key officers.

17. 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.

18. The responses to these governance questions were presented as a one-off report to Members at the meeting of the committee in November 2020. This

does not, therefore, form part of this year's report. Should any new partnerships occur, or significant changes are made to a partnership in the future, updated details will be brought to Members' attention within the next annual report.

LESS SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS

19. The annual review of Less Significant Partnerships report can be found at Appendix B, which has been taken directly from the report to CXMT.
20. Each Less Significant Partnership has also been given a RAG rating, as detailed within the Appendix. It includes a summary of any issues and achievements and notes whether a partnership agreement is in place. None of these partnerships were rated as Amber or Red.

RISK ASSESSMENT

21. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

22. 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 – CXMT annual review of Less Significant Partnership performance report (CONFIDENTIAL)

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers:

CXMT Annual Review of Partnerships 2020/21

Partnership Governance report and Significant Partnerships Governance Appendix (Audit and Governance Committee, 23 November 2020)

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police (2018)

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact: Lindsey Ansell (Ext 4567).