

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)

Date: 1 April 2014

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry – Strategic Partnership Boards

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that all Scrutiny Boards will act as a “critical friend” to the relevant Strategic Partnership Board and consider and report on the following areas:
 - What contribution the Partnership Board is making to tackle poverty and inequality, and the progress being made against this
 - How successfully the Board’s partnership arrangements are working
 - To what extent are significant benefits being seen from partnership working? How has partnership working ensured increased pace of change to address the issue in hand?
2. This is the second year for Scrutiny Boards in exercising their “critical friend” role. As such it is envisaged that the Board this year will focus on reviewing progress since the previous scrutiny exercise. A copy of the Scrutiny Board’s report and observations arising from last year’s review is attached at Appendix 1 as a reminder.
3. The chair of the Sustainable Economy and Culture Board, Nigel Foster, and the Director of City Development will attend the Scrutiny Board to give a presentation on the progress made over the past year and respond to Members’ questions.
4. The Scrutiny Board has also specifically requested an update on progress against the second recommendation contained in last year’s report, relating to progressing the low carbon city priority area of work. The presentation will include a progress report on this

area of the Partnership Board's work, following a workshop which took place on 11 March 2014.

5. The partnerships are an important focus for the delivery of the city's key aims. Scrutiny Boards acting as the "critical friend" of the partnerships will help further progress the agenda and the delivery of the City Priority Plan.

Recommendation

6. The Scrutiny Board is requested to use the attached information and the discussion with representatives from the Strategic Partnership Board to consider and report on the contribution of the Sustainable Economy and Culture Strategic Partnership Board.

Background documents¹

7. None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.