

**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 11 March 2013**

**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. A common approach is being adopted for Scrutiny Boards in exercising their “critical friend” role, in order that outcomes can be compared and contrasted between Partnership Boards. However, it is also acknowledged that each Strategic Partnership Board is at a different stage in its development and maturity.
3. During March 2013, Scrutiny Boards will receive reports from the relevant Strategic Partnership Board and have the opportunity to question the chair and members of the Partnership Board and support officers.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scrutiny Board</b>	<b>Strategic Partnership Board</b>
11 March	Safer and Stronger Communities	Safer and Stronger Communities
14 March	Children and Families	Children's Trust Board
21 March	Sustainable Economy and Culture	Sustainable Economy and Culture
26 March	Housing and Regeneration	Housing and Regeneration
27 March	Health & Wellbeing & Adult Social Care	Health and Wellbeing Board

4. The attached report provides background information on the history and development of the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership Board. The report also presents information which will assist the Scrutiny Board in assessing strengths and areas for development for the Partnership Board in respect of the three key questions set out in paragraph 1 above.
5. Following the scrutiny sessions in March, each Scrutiny Board will produce a summary report of its findings. The Scrutiny Support Unit will then prepare a cover report drawing out any common threads and best practice emerging from the individual inquiry sessions. The full report will be presented to Council, as the commissioning body for this piece of scrutiny inquiry work. Each Strategic Partnership Board will also receive their respective individual report, along with the cover report, and will be requested to respond to any scrutiny recommendations in the normal manner.
6. In December 2012 a review of partnership arrangements was undertaken. It concluded that:
  - The Leeds Initiative Board should be replaced by a wider Best City Leadership Network; this would involve more stakeholders in less frequent meetings focussing on the big 'State of the city' issues which face the city.
  - Best City summits will be held drawing on partners from the network to tackle issues of joint interest.
  - The Leeds Initiative brand should be retired, and the partnerships should be referred to as 'Best City Partnerships'.
  - The 5 strategic partnership boards shall not be changed, however they shall be managed in future by the relevant directorates
7. The outcome of the review does not change the focus of this scrutiny exercise. 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 under the new arrangements.

## **Recommendation**

8. The Scrutiny Board is requested to use the attached information and the discussion with representatives from the Strategic Partnership Board to inform its contribution to the scrutiny report on strategic partnership boards.

## **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

9. None

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<sup>1</sup> 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.