

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 9th September 2013

Subject: Scrutiny review of Strategic Partnership Boards – formal response to the Scrutiny Board’s recommendations

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. During March 2013, the Scrutiny Boards received a report from their relevant Strategic Partnership Board setting out their strengths and potential areas for development in respect of the three key questions above. The Scrutiny Boards were also given the opportunity to question the chair, members of the Partnership Board and support officers.

3. As the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board is aligned to the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board, representatives from this Partnership Board attended the Scrutiny Board’s meeting on 11th March 2013. A report summarising the Scrutiny Board’s observations and recommendations in relation to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board was forwarded to the Partnership Board (see Appendix 1).

4. It is the normal practice to request a formal response to the Board's recommendations once a report has been published. The attached report of the Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board details this formal response (see appendix 2).
- 5 During today's meeting, the Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, Councillor Peter Gruen, and both accountable directors, James Rogers (Citizens and Communities) and Neil Evans (Environment and Housing), will also be providing a verbal update on the planning for the emerging Communities Board.

Recommendations

6. Members are asked to:
 - (a) consider the formal response to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Board's review of the Strategic Partnership Board
 - (b) note the update on the planning for the emerging Communities Board.

Background papers¹

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.