

**Report of Director of Resources**

**Report to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee**

**Date: 23 January 2012**

**Subject: Partnership Governance**

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 Council's Governance Framework for Significant Partnerships was replaced last year by an advisory note for Directors.
2. This report attaches an updated advisory note and the Council's current register of significant partnerships for information.
3. The report confirms the current monitoring arrangements in respect of governance arrangements for partnerships.

**Recommendations**

4. The Committee is asked to note the update provided on the arrangements to ensure that the Council's partnership governance arrangements are fit for purpose.

## 1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the committee about the Council's partnership governance arrangements.

## 2 Background information

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15 November 2011, the Committee were asked to note the outcome of a review of the Governance Framework for Significant Partnerships. The review established that monitoring arrangements required by the Framework were considered too onerous. In view of this, the abolition of the comprehensive area assessment, and resource restraints, the Framework was re-issued as an advisory note for Directors. It is supplemented by more detailed guidance contained in the partnerships toolkit.

## 3 Main issues

- 3.1 A copy of the **advisory note** on partnership governance is attached for information, as appendix 1 to this report. The note was last reviewed in April 2011. Members will note that the note is based on the six principles of corporate governance set out in the Council's code of corporate governance. The note may therefore need to be reviewed, if significant changes are made to the code.
- 3.2 The Head of Governance Services maintains a **register** of significant partnerships. A copy of the current register is attached as appendix 2 to this report. Members will note that there are currently 31 partnerships registered.
- 3.3 Partnerships which were previously required by the Framework to be registered due to their significance remain on the register, unless defunct. Under the revised arrangements, partnerships established by way of key, major, full council or committee decisions, are also registered, as an on-going process. Six additional partnerships have been added to the register over the past year under these new arrangements these are as follows:
  - Leeds Initiative – Health and Wellbeing Board;
  - Leeds Initiative – Sustainable economy and Culture Board;
  - Leeds Initiative Board;
  - Leeds Initiative – Safer and Stronger Communities Board;
  - Leeds Initiative – Housing and Regeneration Board; and
  - Leeds Tenant Federation.
- 3.4 In addition, in September 2011, Directors were asked to review the register to identify defunct partnerships, resulting in a number of entries being removed from the register.
- 3.5 The register informs Internal Audit's decisions about allocating time to review partnership governance arrangements, using a risk based approach. No active monitoring of partnership governance arrangements has been carried out by Internal Audit this year. However, under existing arrangements, Directors continue to be

responsible for ensuring that partnership governance arrangements have regard to the advisory note, and the accompanying toolkit.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The advisory note advises Directors to carry out consultation with stakeholders, before entering into a partnership agreement, and that the partnership should agree, review and monitor a stakeholder involvement strategy.

4.1.2 This report does not contain any proposals which would benefit from consultation.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 The advisory note advises Directors to carry out an impact assessment, before entering into a partnership.

4.2.2 This report does not contain any proposals which require an impact assessment.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The advisory note promotes the key principles underpinning the Council's code of corporate governance.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 In addition to the advisory note, Members will note that the Council's risk management arrangements include guidance on the risk management of significant partnerships.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The Council's arrangements to ensure that governance arrangements for its partnerships are fit for purpose have been reviewed and maintained.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Committee is asked to note this update on the arrangements to ensure that the Council's partnership governance arrangements are relevant and fit for purpose.

## **7 Background documents**

7.1 Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee 15 November 2010