

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Partnerships 04 March 2014

Report of the Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Budget and Performance Panel on the key partnerships with which the Council engages regularly and to provide information on costs and outcomes.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That Budget and Performance Panel notes the content of this report.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 In November 2012, Budget and Performance Panel considered a report on the key district partnerships with which the Council was working at that time. This report now provides further information on the Council's current key partnerships with some detail on operational and financial effectiveness, taking into account inputs and outcomes.

1.2 Although the Council works with partners widely and in different ways to deliver priorities, unless there are financial or decision making responsibilities, it is not always necessary to create formal governance structures and management arrangements to achieve outcomes. In many cases, the Council is a supporting rather than a lead partner. Reflecting this, there have been some changes in the Council's partnership working arrangements since 2012, with some partnerships no longer active, new arrangements emerging, and less formal joint working taking place, as required.

1.3 For the purposes of this report, key partnerships are considered to be those where the Council makes a direct contribution of funds, officer time or other resources to support joint working with partners to deliver agreed outcomes. The report does not consider the wide range of other arrangements in existence such as joint committees, shared services or very informal or ad hoc joint working with partners and other agencies.

2.0 Details

2.1 In the current context, the key partnerships are identified below. A further breakdown of partnership costs and contributions as well as intended outcomes is attached at Appendix A.

- **Children’s Trust Board and Partnership**

The Council currently works with Lancashire County Council to manage the Children’s Trust Board for the district, which takes the strategic responsibility for achievement of positive outcomes for children and young people. The Board has an overview of mainstream services but seeks to add value by enabling additional services that reflect district priorities. The membership of the Board is limited but is supported by a wider partnership, which meets twice a year and provides direct engagement with many other partner organisations.

The Council contributes to the Children’s Trust Board and Partnership at the strategic level and also provides coordination, supported by a financial contribution from Lancashire County Council under the terms of a Statement of Commitment.

- **Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and sub groups**

The CSP is a statutory partnership which brings together the key agencies working together to reduce crime and disorder in the district. It is supported by sub groups working to address local priorities on a multi agency basis, including Anti Social Behaviour and Domestic Violence.

Currently the CSP is chaired by the Council’s portfolio holder and the council also provides a senior officer contribution at the strategic level, policy support to inform and advise and to oversee projects and funding. An annual financial contribution is made to assist in delivering specific projects linked to district priorities.

- **Health and Well Being Partnership**

The Health and Well Being Partnership for the district was created around three years ago to mirror new sub regional health structures at the local level. These arrangements provide the mechanism via which the district can develop a coordinated position on local health and well being priorities and communicate formally with the Lancashire wide group to influence emerging policies and funding.

The Council provides an officer contribution at the strategic level but does not take the leading role or provide coordination or funding for this partnership.

- **Lancaster Arts Partnership (LAP)**

LAP was created by partners in 2010 to provide a coordinated and coherent approach to delivering arts activities in the district. The partnership currently has x local arts organisations as members but seeks to engage with the wider range of arts groups as far as possible.

The Council provides officer advice and information for LAP, with Lancashire County Council and the Arts Council, but does not take the leading role or provide coordination. No ongoing funding is provided for this partnership although some financial support has been provided for specific initiatives, for example, Take Pride funding was awarded for development work.

- **Communities Together**

Communities Together was previously known as the Community Leader’s Group and its objectives relate to the promotion of positive relationships between diverse communities and groups in the district.

The Council provides senior officer attendance and meeting administration as well as occasional support for specific activities.

• **Affordable Warmth Group**

The Affordable Warmth Steering Group was established around three years ago to bring district partners together to develop ways of improving the health and mortality rates for vulnerable people affected by cold and unsuitable living conditions. This group links to the Lancaster and North Fylde Affordable Warmth Group, which provides strategic coordination across the north of Lancashire. The local group is informal and primarily provides a means of engagement and consultation with local partners as well as means of coordinating local delivery activities.

The Council provides officer attendance at meetings, which occur 3 to 4 times per annum, and, separately, has taken accountable body responsibility for external funding to support affordable warmth activities.

• **Morecambe Bay Partnership**

Morecambe Bay Partnership is a strategic partnership that has been in existence for some years as a registered charity with a board of trustees. The partnership is strongly engaged in bringing together economic, heritage and environmental interests around the bay. Current partners include all four Local Authorities including Lancaster City Council.

The Council provides senior management capacity at Board level and a direct annual contribution of £4k. Separately, the Council works with Morecambe Bay Partnership on specific initiatives, such as destination branding.

• **Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB**

The Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Partnership was established in 2002 to lead on the delivery of statutory responsibilities relating to the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000. The main purpose of the Partnership is to actively conserve and enhance the AONB, promote the purpose of its designation and to fulfil the statutory duties and other requirements of local authorities. The AONB has an executive committee and an AONB team based in Arnsdale, which serves as the main vehicle through which the partnership delivers its responsibilities.

The Council takes management responsibility for the AONB, including financial accountability, on behalf of Lancashire County Council, Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council.

The table at Appendix A provides a further breakdown of partnership costs and contributions as well as intended outcomes.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 Generally, the Council is still working extensively with other partners and agencies, although in a very flexible and cost effective way with fewer formal structures and management arrangements, unless these are required or beneficial. In many cases, the Council is a contributing rather than a lead partner and does not automatically assume responsibility for partnership management. This report reflects current partnership arrangements in the district and provides

information on the Council's costs and contributions as well as intended partnership outcomes.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

No specific implications as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No specific implications as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No specific implications as a result of this report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

No specific implications as a result of this report

Information Services:

No specific implications as a result of this report.

Property:

No specific implications as a result of this report.

Open Spaces:

No specific implications as a result of this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring officer has been consulted and has no further comments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact Officer: Anne Marie Harrison
Telephone: 01524 582308
E-mail: amharrison@lancaster.gov.uk
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