

Annual Review of SSDC Partnerships

Executive Portfolio Holder: *Cllr Sylvia Seal, Leisure and Culture*
Strategic Director: *Rina Singh, Interim Chief Executive*
Assistant Director: *Helen Rutter/Kim Close, Communities*
Service Manager: *Helen Rutter, Communities*
Lead Officer: *David Crisfield, Third Sector and Partnerships Co-ordinator*
Contact Details: *helen.rutter@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435012*
david.crisfield@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462240

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide District Executive with the annual review of SSDC partnerships.

2. Public Interest

2.1 SSDC works in partnership with a range of organisations to coordinate activity, deliver services and where possible, work more efficiently to tackle issues, which are relevant to more than one organisation. We maintain a Partnerships Register, which records information about each partnership and ensures they are reviewed annually to check their relevance.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That the District Executive notes the annual review process and observations for each of the partnerships on the Register.

4. Background

4.1 SSDC maintains a Partnerships Register and reviews the governance arrangements/performance of each partnership. Each Partnership is reviewed annually by 31 March. In 2011 the Scrutiny Committee was asked to take a more detailed look at each partnership with the aim of coming up with proposals to rationalise the number of partnerships and improve governance and other arrangements for those remaining on the register.

4.2 Following this, District Executive agreed a definition of a Partnership was agreed

A partnership is a formal working arrangement involving one or more independent bodies, from any sector, who pool resources and share responsibility for agreeing and then delivering a set of planned actions and outcomes. A formal agreement is made by all partners to work together for specific outcomes.

With other guidance and a list of Partnerships which should remain on the Register was also agreed. It was also set out that an annual review of each of the remaining partnerships should be reported to District Executive or the relevant Area Committee.

4.3 A South West Audit Partnership review into SSDC Partnership Arrangements in 2011 confirmed that our arrangements are reasonable, with adequate controls.

4.4 In the summer of 2013 some additional fields were added to the TEN monitoring system seeking further assurance about the following aspects:

- Does the Partnership have adequate financial controls?
- Does the Constitution or Partnership Agreement make reference to the General Equality Duty?
- Has a data sharing agreement been adopted by the partnership (if appropriate) or is data sharing covered in the Partnership Agreement?

4.5 In 2015 some updating of the Partnership Approval process documentation was carried out. Formal approval is required before a Partnership can be officially added to the register.

5. Annual Review Process

5.1 The updated list of Partnerships on the register is attached at Table 1. This sets out both the Partnerships of corporate significance that report to DX and area-based partnerships that report to the relevant Area Committees.

5.2 The review process is triggered by the Partnership TEN software, commencing at the beginning of March each year, with automated emails sent to reviewers and approvers. Each Lead Officer is responsible for supplying an update on their partnerships.

5.3 All the Partnerships that were scheduled to be reviewed for the period 2015/16 have been reviewed by their lead officer and approved by the designated Assistant Director with the exception of Chard Regeneration Scheme (Chard Vison) and Homefinder Somerset Partnership & Strategic IT (reviewed only).

5.4 Since the last review in 2015 the following Partnerships have been added to the register:

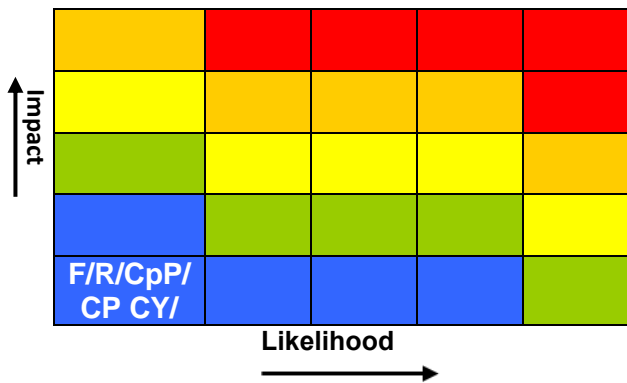
- **The Yeovil Innovation Centre**
- **Heart of Wessex (Leader Programme) Local Action Group**
- **Somerset Water Management Partnership.**

5.5 There are two Partnerships whose status and continued inclusion on the register will need reviewing during 2016/17 with any decision to remove presented to members in the 2017 annual review of Partnerships. These are:-

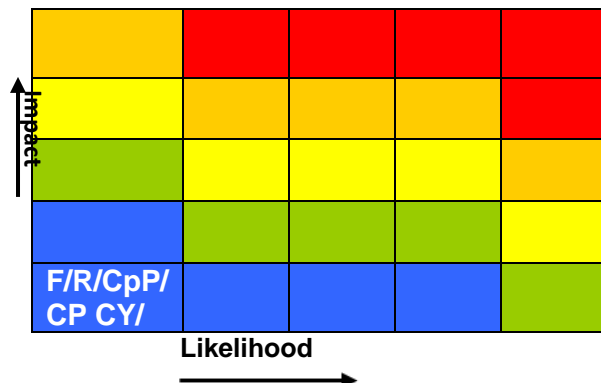
- **Somerset Intelligence Partnership**
- **Strategic Partnership Against Hate Crime**

6. Risk Matrix

Risk Profile before officer recommendations



Risk Profile after officer recommendations



Key

| Categories | Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| R = Reputation | Red = High impact and high probability |
| CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities | Orange = Major impact and major probability |
| CP = Community Priorities | Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability |
| CY = Capacity | Green = Minor impact and minor probability |
| F = Financial | Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability |

7. Financial implications

7.1 None in relation to this report

8. Corporate Priority Implications

- Minimise impact to our residents of the major benefits changes proposed by government
- Make optimum use of resources for home adaptations to enable people to live independently
- Minimise homelessness by providing advice, support and housing options
Provide welfare benefits support and advice to tackle poverty for our vulnerable residents

9. Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

9.1 None in relation to this report

10. Equality and Diversity Implications

10.1 None in relation to this report but individual partnerships need to take account of the general equality duty in conducting their work

11. Background Papers:

District Exec Agenda & Minutes: October 2011/June 2012/May 2013/August 2014/July 2015
Scrutiny Task & Finish group meeting: 15 May 2012

Table 1

Partnership Register – 2016

| Partnership | Comments | Reviewed on register | Lead officer | Signed off by A/D |
|---|--|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Partnerships of Corporate significance reporting to District Executive | | | | |
| Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) | Success measured against business plan and objectives. Performance monitored by SMG, Somerset Waste Partnership, Somerset Waste Board, District Executive and Scrutiny. Partnership is still working well for SSDC. | Yes | Vega Sturgess | Yes |
| South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) | Performance will be reported to the Audit Committee in July 2016 | Yes | Donna Parham | Yes |
| Safer Somerset Partnership | No review comment for 2016 | Yes | Kim Close/Helen Rutter | Yes |
| Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) South Somerset Together (SST) | The current Partnership agreement has expired and the Partners have agreed to run with a much simplified arrangement from June 2016 | Yes | Helen Rutter | Yes |
| Market Towns Investment Group (MTIG) | No review comment for 2016 | Yes | Andrew Gillespie | Yes |
| Homefinder Somerset Partnership & Strategic IT | Partnership reviewed on regular basis and still fit for purpose | Yes | Jon Batty | No |
| Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Partnership | This partnership has been subject to a review which is now complete. | Yes | Pam Harvey | Yes |

| Partnership | Comments | Reviewed on register | Lead officer | Approved by A/D |
|---|---|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership | Report to be taken to DX October 2016 | Yes | Kim Close/Helen Rutter | Yes |
| Chard Regeneration Scheme (Chard Vision) | | No | Martin Woods | No |
| Yeovil Innovation Centre | Performance reported to District Executive 3rd December 2015. Operational performance is in line with or exceeds targets set out in the Business Plan. A variation to the Partnership Agreement will be required to reflect YIC2 extension. | Yes | David Julian | Yes |
| Area-based Partnerships reporting to Area Committees | | | | |
| Area West | | | | |
| The Stop Line Way | Further resolution passed by Full Council July 2015 to prioritise the completion the Stop Line Way through South Somerset and for this to be progressed by the Area West Committee and the Somerset Growth Board. Whilst the partnership has been moribund, it is intended to retain and refresh the partnership in order to support the work that is being led by Area West. | Yes | Andrew Gillespie | Yes |
| Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership | No comment for 2016 | Yes | Andrew Gillespie | Yes |
| Chard Regeneration Scheme (Chard Vision) | See entry above under Partnerships of Corporate Significance reporting to District Executive | No | Martin Woods | No |

| Area East | | | | |
|--|--|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Cranborne Chase and West Wilts Downs AONB Partnership | Next review due 2017 | N/A | Katy Menday | N/A |
| Heart of Wessex Local Action Group | The launch of this funding programme was delayed by Government. It went live in October 2015 | Yes | Helen Rutter | Yes |
| Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership | Reports taken to both Area East and South Committees. Funding allocated | Yes | Helen Rutter | Yes |
| Area North | | | | |
| Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities | Delays to the launch of the funding programme. Programme was due to launch September 2015 but was delayed until January 2016. A number of outline applications are in hand and undergoing assessment. The Executive Board will start decision making after which the spend profile can be monitored. | Yes | Charlotte Jones | Yes |
| Area South | | | | |
| Yeovil Vision | Significant revamp of Terms of Reference to accommodate new Regeneration Boards and simplify working links with Town Team | Yes | Kim Close/Helen Rutter | Yes |
| Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership | See comment above under Area East | Yes | Helen Rutter | Yes |