



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**to
COUNCIL (EXTRAORDINARY)
12 JULY 2018**

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report details the current significant partnerships in which Maldon District Council is involved. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of continuing the Council's involvement in these partnerships.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) that Officers to report back to the relevant Committee with further information on any of the significant partnerships detailed in **APPENDIX 1** as required.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The Council's Managing Partnerships Effectively Toolkit states that the following should be considered when assessing whether a partnership should be classed as significant:
- Is the Council the accountable body - i.e. will the Council take a lead in bringing together contributions of stakeholders and/or is it responsible for the performance of the partnership?
 - Are there resource implications for the Council in the operation of the partnership?
 - Does the partnership have a significant impact on the Council's key corporate aims - i.e. is achievement of partnership objectives a key factor in the Council's ability to meet significant corporate targets or overcome key strategic risks?
- 3.1.2 **APPENDIX 1** to this report details:
- The current significant partnerships;
 - Purpose of the partnership;
 - Whether Maldon District Council (DC) is the lead partner;

- Officers and Members involved;
 - Maldon District Council (MDC) resources contributed;
 - Achievements / benefits of being involved;
 - Reporting / monitoring;
 - Links to MDC key corporate activities and/or corporate risks;
 - Impact or risk to the Council of not being involved in this partnership.
- 3.1.3 The current review process was implemented to ensure the risks to MDC of being involved in these partnerships are identified and, where necessary, mitigated. The review also seeks to confirm that the partnership objectives are being achieved, the governance of the partnership is sound and that Council officer time is being used effectively.
- 3.1.4 Under this process, each of the significant partnerships is reviewed annually with the lead officer to assess / identify any changes to the partners, MDC Officers and Members involved, MDC's contribution of resources or the risks involved.
- 3.1.5 Our Auditors, BDO, recently undertook an audit of MDC's approach to managing partnerships and assessed the level of assurance for both the design and operational effectiveness of the current process as moderate.
- 3.1.6 A recommendation made by BDO was that an overall review of the significant partnerships should be undertaken by Members on an annual basis.
- 3.1.7 Based on the information provided in **APPENDIX 1** to this report, the Council is asked to consider the current significant partnerships and confirm MDC's continued involvement.
- 3.1.8 A further recommendation by BDO is that performance of the partnerships should be reviewed more robustly to ensure that partnership objectives are being met. For some partnerships, performance is regularly reported to the relevant Committee – for example the Community Safety Partnership performance is reported six monthly to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee and Haven Gateway Partnership is included in the Economic Development updates to each Planning and Licensing Committee meeting.
- 3.1.9 However, it is acknowledged that performance or updates on some partnerships are not reported on a regular basis. Lead officers have been made aware of the need to obtain and submit partnership performance information to the relevant Programme Committee at least annually.
- 3.1.10 Clearly there are other organisations that the Council works with, but which are not considered as a partnership arrangement as they are either:
- Contracts for services (often under a Service Level Agreement) where we would be content to switch to another supplier or deliver in-house (so demonstrating that the level of commitment to the relationship indicative of a partnership is missing) or

- Simply normal “in the course of business” relationships lacking any sense of mutual dependency.

3.1.11 There are also a number of technical, professional and/or operational groups that officers are involved in which are not deemed to be partnerships. The Corporate Leadership Team recognise the need to review these to confirm that our involvement represents good use of resources and intend to collate and review officer time spent on each and get a better understanding of their outputs.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 4.1 The majority of the significant partnerships are fundamental to the delivery of the Council’s corporate goals (for example, relating to community safety, economic development, housing or flood management).
- 4.2 However, it is equally important that MDC’s involvement in these partnerships is assessed and managed effectively to ensure that any risks are identified/managed and that the objectives of the partnership are monitored and achieved.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Working in partnership with other agencies and organisations assists MDC in the delivery of its services and contributes to the achievement of its corporate goals.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** - Some of the significant partnerships present risk to the Council, but these are identified, assessed and mitigated as much as possible.

However, if the Council decided to withdraw from some of these partnerships, this could also present risk to MDC, for example, in terms of impacting on its ability to deliver its corporate goals, inability to influence decisions either at a District, County or Regional level or missed funding opportunities.

- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial and human)** – One of the aims of the agreed process for managing significant partnerships is to ensure that the cost of the Council’s involvement in the partnerships is identified and quantified.
- (v) **Impact on the Environment** - None.

Background Papers: None.

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