

Audit Committee

22 March 2018



Title	Update on Partnerships		
Purpose of the report	To note		
Report Author	Sandy Muirhead		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Tony Mitchell	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Financial Sustainability		
Recommendations	To note the report		
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure good governance and performance of partnerships and fulfil the recommendations of the internal audit report.		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 In 2016 Audit undertook an internal review of partnerships within Spelthorne Borough Council with completion of that report in May 2017 and a review in the summer of 2017.
- 1.2 The audit report highlighted a number of recommendations which have been followed up.
- 1.3 Originally there was a lack of clarity in terms of partnerships across the organisation. A list of current partnerships has been put together (Appendix 1). However, it is evident that some originally considered as partnerships are either contracts, secondments or service level agreements so are not classed as partnerships.
- 1.4 Partnerships are arrangements where parties, known as partners, agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests. From the list in Appendix 1 it is evident that there is a real mix of partnership arrangements from the informal to Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). As a result a number of groups working together have terms of reference but the informality of the group suggests in many cases they are used for sharing information, mitigating duplication and initiating joint actions which are then carried out by other individuals associated with the organisations involved.
- 1.5 The third main item the audit report recommended was to ensure Overview and Scrutiny Committee are aware so they can question any partnerships. Audit have to date have had the main interest in this area.

2. Options analysis and proposal

2.1 To note the report

2.2 Not to act on the report.

2.3 To ensure good governance and awareness of the performance of partnerships it is suggested that the option in 2.1 is followed.

3. Financial implications

3.1 None at this stage

4. Other considerations

4.1 Good governance and knowledge of partnerships will assist in ensuring they are performing effectively and delivering on their aims.

5. Timetable for implementation

5.1 Report to Audit 22 March 2018.

Background papers:

Appendices: Appendix 1