

PARTNERSHIP PROTOCOLS

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. Elaine Woodburn
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Summary: Recommends a format for partnership protocols.

Recommendation: That the Executive approves the format provided for the content of the Partnership Protocols.

Impact on delivering Corporate Plan objectives: An effect format for partnership protocols will help the Council deliver its key objectives through using effective secure processes and procedures.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): None direct.

Financial and human resource implications: There are no financial implications. There will however be considerable human resource implications.

Project & Risk Management: It is recommended that once approved each responsible member of Corporate Team should settle the exact wording of their own Partnership Protocols with their own partner organisation..

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** None
- **Ward:** None

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 2005 Corporate Team agreed through the Corporate Governance Audit 2005/06 the development of Partnership Protocols with our partners.
- 1.2 Council has numerous informal arrangements with public and voluntary sector organisations but there are very few formal written arrangements.
- 1.3 Because of the range of types of partnerships it is not possible to draft a pro-forma protocol for every single partnership. However there are themes which are common to all partnerships which need to be considered as part of every partnership protocol.

2. OPTIONS

- 2.1 A thorough search of the web usual sources has been made and I have come to the conclusion that there is no one suitable partnership protocol applicable to all partnerships. This is therefore not an option.

- 2.2 There is however a very useful paper issued by the Audit Commission in October 2005 called "Governing Partnership-Bridging the Accountability Gap". This lengthy document – it is over 80 pages long – provides a very useful check list of what issues need to be considered in Partnership Protocols. I would recommend that, rather than a formal partnership agreement the Council uses the check list as a reminder of what considerations need to be covered when drafting an agreement. I have adapted this and it is shown as an appendix to this report. The format might also usefully be applied to the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership.
- 2.3 Other options are:
- a. Raise the issue County-wide possibly through the CSP so that a draft format can be agreed throughout Cumbria. This has the advantage that the overall result would not necessarily suit Copeland.
 - b. Obtain one-off consultation services. This would provide a solution but would cost the Council as opposed to the "free" use of council officers' time.

3. RECOMMENDED SOLUTION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the framework questions already identified and shown in the attached Appendix be used as a basis for developing individual partnership protocols. It is also recommended that responsible members of Corporate Team should themselves develop their own partnership protocols rather than have one person agree a raft of different partnership protocols with all our partners. By answering the questions shown in the appendix, I am confident that each partnership protocol will be comprehensive. When reporting to Executive Officers will be asked to confirm that the Partnership Protocols check list has been followed.

List of Appendices:

A: Partnership Arrangements – Contents of Protocols

List of Background Documents:

Report to Corporate Team of 21st August 2006

Corporate Governance Audit 2005/06

List of Consultees:

Corporate Team