

Overview and Scrutiny

Response to Recommendations

Title of review	Review of Partnerships
Date review completed	March 2011
Chair of the Review	Joyce Bosnjak
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Total number of pages	7

Guidance

The final report of the above review has been considered by Cabinet and responses are now required to the recommendations contained within the report. Follow this three step response to each recommendation which are set out on an individual page in this document.

PART ONE

Response from the Cabinet Member/Executive to recommendation, to be completed two months after publication of review

PART TWO

Response from the Department to progress on carrying out recommendation, to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

PART THREE

Additional comments or further action required, to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee.

- Should you need further assistance in completing this response, please contact the Lead Scrutiny Officer above. Visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/scrutiny for a copy of the review.



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Recommendation 1 (of 6)

The County Council should review the support that it provides to Partnerships.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

As part of the Improvement Programme (Refocus of Partnership Work) the County Council reviewed its support for Local Strategic Partnerships and as a result agreed that formal regular attendance will be withdrawn but, where appropriate, advice and support will continue to be given. The implementation of this review is in progress.

In addition to this, as part of the review, the County Council significantly reduced its support for the Nottinghamshire Partnership.

On 25th May 2011 the Nottinghamshire Partnership Board met and agreed to disband the Partnership. It was considered that existing "Thematic" Partnerships and meetings such as the Leaders Meetings and Chief Executives Meetings can be utilized in place of the Nottinghamshire Partnership.

Work is currently being undertaken by the County Council on developing a response to the Localism agenda and this will require further work with District and Borough Councils, and other public and voluntary sector organizations, on developing a coordinated response to that agenda. This should include reviewing the purpose and focus of Partnership work, value for money and the nature of representation by Nottinghamshire County Council on Partnership bodies. Timescale: by the end of December 2011.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **Policy, Planning & Corporate Services Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

December 2011

Date provided

December 2011

A Member Reference Group, chaired by the Deputy Leader, has been established to steer the development and implementation of a localism policy for the County Council. This to be reported to Council in January 2012. Parish and Town Councils have been approached to discuss their views about the type of areas they would be interested in developing as part of the localism agenda. A Member's seminar on localism was held in December 2011. Officers have met with the voluntary and community sector infrastructure groups to discuss developing a coordinated response to this agenda and a meeting with the wider VCS is being planned in the new year.

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

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Not to be completed

Recommendation 2 (of 6)

The County Council should enter into dialogue with its partners to restructure the formal partnership arrangements in Nottinghamshire. Such discussions should recognize that different arrangements may suit different districts/boroughs but that there is insufficient demonstrable value to continue the current level of County Council commitment. Any restructure should seek to:

- Maintain the theme/sub groups operating at district/borough level
- Reduce the theme/sub groups operating at county level
- Ensure robust performance management arrangements for each community strategy
- Provide for working together to develop community strategies (which need not be formal partnership/board
- Provide for working together on issues at a county level where appropriate

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☐ partially accept ☒ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

Partnerships should be delivering more locally focused activities which can respond more effectively to local need. The County Council is looking at how it can refocus its commitment to partnership working and ensure value for money. This work should be undertaken in tandem with the work to be undertaken under recommendation 1. Timescale: end December 2011.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **Policy Planning & Corporate Services Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

DECEMBER 2011

Date provided

DECEMBER 2011

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This work is being undertaken as part of approach identified in progress on recommendation one.

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

[Additional comments or further action required](#)

Not to be completed

[Recommendation 3 \(of 6\)](#)

The Nottinghamshire Partnership's review of the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy should seek to greater reflect a collection of the district/borough community strategies.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

There should be much better co-ordination from all levels of local government for the delivery of community strategies; in particular there should be greater input from town and parish councils, although this creates problems where areas are not parished. A pilot study in, for example, Warsop or Eastwood, could be a starting point, to look at how effective activities in the past have been and to inform future community strategy work. Timescale: end December 2011.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **Policy, Planning and Corporate Services Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

December 2011

Date provided

December 2011

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As part of the approach outlined above, work is underway to identify ways of working which provide opportunities for improved co-ordination from all levels of government which will include a flexible approach to different areas e.g. both parished and non parished areas of the county.

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 4 (of 6)

The County Council develop a formal policy on its involvement in Partnerships which could include:

- How/when membership should be reviewed
- How the council will be represented on Partnerships – including the authority to be held by the representatives and arrangements for reporting back – particularly by Members
- Accountability arrangements for Partnerships – particularly to Members

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

This would be a valuable piece of work to produce a Partnership Protocol to inform how Partnership work goes forward. This would include addressing roles and responsibilities, levels of representation, reporting and accountability arrangements
Timescale: end December 2011

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **Policy Planning and Corporate Services Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

December 2011

Date provided

December 2011

The production of a partnership protocol underpins the implementation of the councils policy approach to localism – the development of this will be progressed through to working in tandem with agreeing a framework for engaging different levels of local government and the wider community

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PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee
[Additional comments or further action required](#)

Not to be completed

[Recommendation 5 \(of 6\)](#)

The role of the County Council's Member Forums should be reviewed. As part of the review, consideration should be given to the reporting of partnership activity within the district/borough area and the benefits of chairs of Member Forums being invited to Partnership meetings.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review
[Response from the Cabinet Member/Executive to recommendation](#)

Date due Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

Member Forums can and should do more; they are important for their contribution to the localism agenda and as such, should include more reference to parish and town council issues. The possibility of devolving resources and responsibilities to Member Forums for local projects and decision making should also be explored. Timescale: end December 2011 for draft recommendations.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response
[Response from the Policy Planning & Corporate Services Department to progress on carrying out recommendation](#)

Date due Date provided

Members are in the process of discussing the role of Member Forums and their contribution to the localism agenda. An options paper has been discussed at a meeting of the Localism Members Reference Group on the future role of member forums and a further paper is to be tabled on the achievements of forums over the last 18 months.

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee
[Additional comments or further action required](#)

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Not to be completed

Recommendation 6 (of 6)

The Chair of the Nottinghamshire Partnership – when a County Councillor – should provide a report to meetings of the County Council.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ The recommendation (please tick✓)

Please complete

This did happen. However, recognizing that there are now a number of thematic groups in place, (such as the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, Children and Young People Partnership and the Local Economic Partnership) together with the Leaders and Chief Executives Meetings where key issues are addressed, the Nottinghamshire Partnership Board at its meeting on 25th May 2011 agree to dissolve the Partnership

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **Policy, Planning & Corporate Services Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

December 2011

Date provided

December 2011

No progress required

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

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