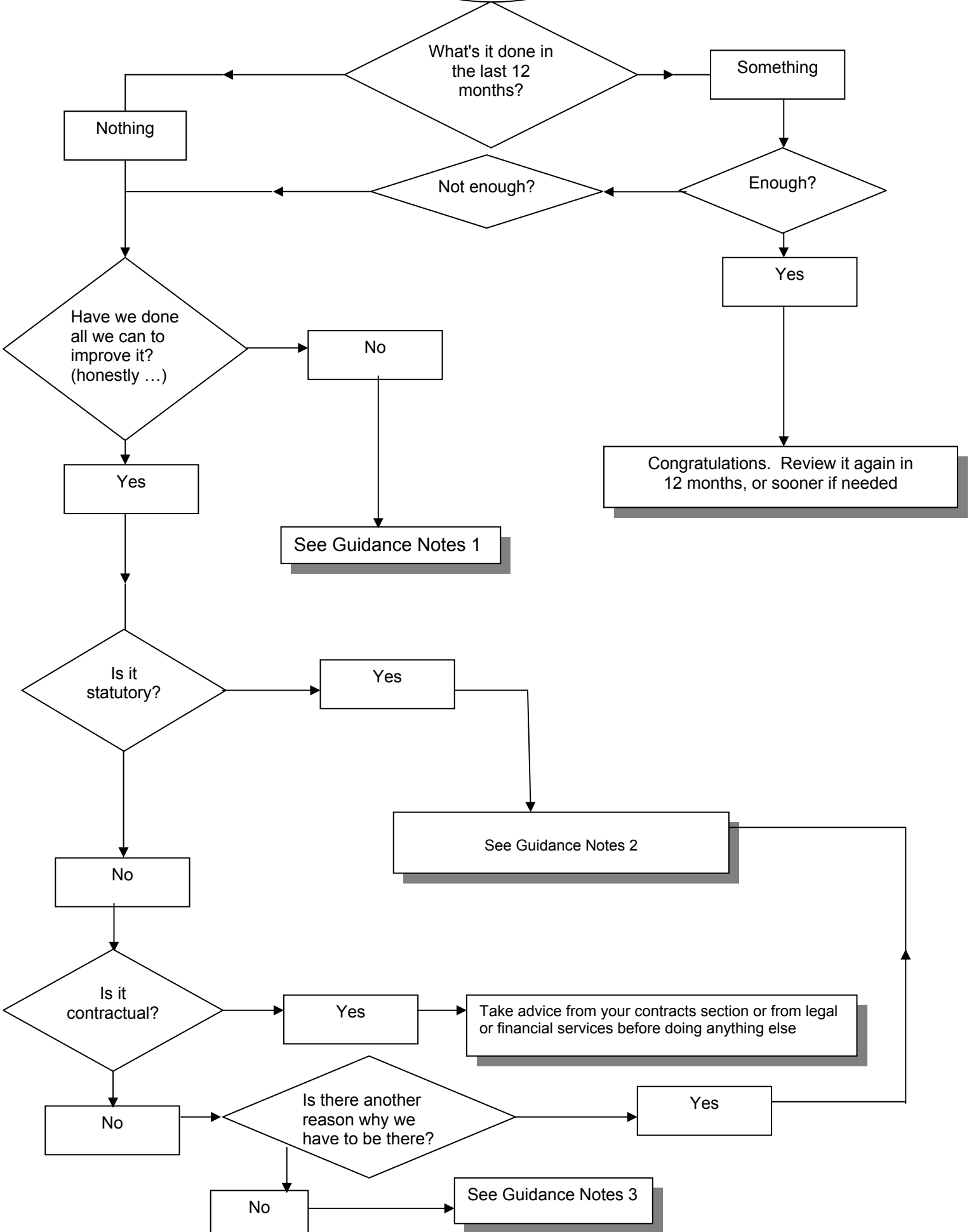


Five Minute Review

START



Guidance note 1

If you need to improve the way the partnership works

Try one of these...

- Get a facilitator in and ask for help
- Be sure that the partnership is helping you improve your service area – or that your service area is helping the partnership
- Is there someone else in the Council who is better placed to be the member of this partnership?
- Ask if the partnership is still necessary – can the objectives be achieved in another way?
- Make sure you are all clear about the purpose of the partnership – and make sure that all the relevant partners are attending. If not, find out why.
- Make sure the meetings are run in such a way that allows all partners to contribute
- Have a session on target setting within partnerships – and be clear about whose needs have priority – is it a top down approach or a bottom up approach?
- Identify the successes that have been achieved through the partnership
- Review the chairing arrangements
- Does it report to a higher level? Does it need more senior intervention?
- Make sure meetings are proactively managed in such a way as to promote openness and trust between partners
- Make sure all meetings leave time to end with a commitment to action
- Make sure the housekeeping and administrative systems are appropriate to meet the aims of the partnership
- Brainstorm all the things that will help the partnership reach its goals over the next 12 months

Guidance notes 2

If there's a reason we have to stay with a partnership that's not delivering

- Tough. You need to get a facilitator in and discuss other options with the partnership. (Can the work be managed in other ways, e.g. through an annual conference?)
- These types of partnership need to be very focused on achieving targets and need to be closely managed to make sure they are performing effectively. Make sure that this approach does not stifle innovation.
- Consider a major review and evaluation of the partnership's progress.
- Find out from partners whether they think it is successful.
- Have you done a cost – benefit analysis? Is it worth investing more resources?
- Ask for advice from the regulatory body and benchmark against other similar partnerships.
- Is there someone else in the Council who is better placed to be the member of this partnership?
- Ask the Cabinet lead for advice. S/he might suggest a select committee scrutiny review of the partnership.

Guidance notes 3

If it's time to leave....

- Consider the impact of our withdrawal on other partners, members and service users before pulling out.
- Develop a clear and transparent exit strategy
- Ensure that there is another way of achieving the objectives.
- Discuss the decision with the Cabinet lead.