

**Classification:**

Part 1 – Public

**Key Decision:**

Please specify - No

**Gravesham Borough Council**

**Report to:** Performance and Administration Committee  
**Date:** 4 February 2016  
**Reporting officer:** Corporate Performance Manager  
**Subject:** Corporate Register of Partnerships: P&A Portfolio

**Purpose and summary of report:**

To present Members of the committee with an outline of the partnership arrangements, as declared by the Corporate Register of Partnerships, relevant to the Performance and Administration portfolio.

**Recommendations:**

This report is for information purposes only.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The council is increasingly working in partnership with local organisations, groups, other public, private and ‘third sector’ bodies to achieve its objectives for the local community. Partnership working can add many benefits to the delivery of services by enabling the council to develop better understanding of the needs of the public through shared perspectives. This in turn can result in the avoidance of duplication, sharing of skills, knowledge and data, securing of additional resources, improved service delivery to the customer and improved customer satisfaction.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that the council has had in place a Corporate Register of Partnerships for a number of years. The Register is reviewed annually and is intended to provide a central public record of partnerships in which the council is involved. The register is available on the council website and is reviewed and updated on an annual basis; the last review took place in October 2015.

1.3 For the purposes of the Register, the council defines a partnership as:

*“an agreement between the council and one or more independent bodies to work together to achieve one or more objectives”.*

1.4 In order to ensure that the Register identified partnerships correctly and was able to differentiate between a ‘significant’ and ‘other’ partnership, definitions of a partnership and what makes a partnership ‘significant’ were agreed by Management Team. The following definition was adopted:

*“a partnership for which there is a council resource provision of £10,000 or greater or one that is fundamental to the delivery of a corporate objective as established within the council’s Corporate Plan. Without this effective partnership therefore, the delivery of Gravesham Borough Council’s key corporate goals would not occur.”*

## **2. Performance and Administration Partnerships**

2.1 There are six specific partnerships that contribute to the delivery of the council objectives that fall within the remit of the Performance & Administration portfolio.

2.2 In order to fully understand the variety of partnerships currently in place across the Performance and Administration portfolio, and the contribution they make to delivering services to the community, Appendix 2 to this report presents full details of the six established partnerships including key information relating to governance and financial reporting:

- Revenues and Benefits - Shared Management
- Council Tax and Business Rates Management Arrangement
- One Customer One Team
- Internal Audit and Fraud - Shared Management
- IT Services - Shared Management
- Kent Connects

2.3 Members should note that a number of other partnerships set out in the Corporate Register of Partnerships may also make an indirect contribution to the work of the committee.

## **3. Next steps**

3.1 Since the Corporate Register of Partnerships was produced in October 2015 a number of developments have taken place that have impacted on these arrangements, including the now fully integrated Internal Audit and Fraud shared service and the re-structuring of the council’s senior management team resulting in the creation of the Director Corporate Services role. The register will subsequently be refreshed to include these recent changes.

- 3.2 As part of the Overview Scrutiny Committee programme of activities agreed at the committee meeting on 17 September 2015, it was determined that on an annual basis relevant partnerships would be selected by the Chair and Vice-Chair for formal Member review.
- 3.3 The review process would consider a number of criteria including but not exclusive to; the relevance and performance of the partnership in delivering corporate objectives, governance arrangements, and the benefit and value for money provided to residents by the partnership arrangement.
- 3.4 No partnerships within the remit of the Performance and Administration Committee have been selected to form part of the Overview Scrutiny Committee process. Although not forming part of the current suite of identified partnerships, there is therefore the potential for any of the partnerships relevant to the Performance & Administration portfolio to be selected for formal review by the Overview Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.5 Members are asked to consider Appendix 2 with regards to:
- the format of the register with a view to providing opinion on any necessary changes to the structure for the 2016 version; and
  - the respective partnerships in place across the Performance and Administration portfolio seeking clarity on relevant governance and financial reporting processes from lead responsible officers as required.

**IMPLICATIONS**

**APPENDIX 1**

<b>Legal</b>	There are no legal considerations presented by the content of this report.		
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	There are no financial implications presented by the content of this report. The report is for information purposes only and financial information is limited to costs associated with the suite of established partnerships presented at Appendix 2.		
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Partnership working is becoming more and more prevalent in the work of the council and is a key factor in the efficient and effective delivery of services and corporate objectives. It is therefore important that the council maintains comprehensive information regarding the partnerships it is involved in to enable effective consideration of partnership working arrangements as a contribution to the achievement of corporate objectives.		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Screening for Equality Impacts</b>		
	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
	a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	N/A
	b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	
	c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?	N/A	
<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>			
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	The council's adopted Corporate Plan sets the strategic vision and objectives for the authority over the 2015-19 period. Partnerships are an essential tool in enabling the council to realise its core objectives and the commitment to partnership working is reflected in the 'Helping us Deliver' section of the current plan.		
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	The full Corporate Register of Partnerships includes information regarding the CCTV Partnership, Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership and G-Safe.		