

Classification: Public
Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Cabinet
Date: 25 March 2019
Reporting officer: Stuart Bobby, Director (Corporate Services) and Michelle Batstone, Corporate Change Manager
Subject: Revised Working in Partnership Framework

Purpose and summary of report:

To present Members of the Cabinet with an updated *Working in Partnership Framework* for Gravesham Borough Council

Recommendations:

Members are requested to approve the Working in Partnership Framework for the council, as attached at appendix two, for submission to Full Council for formal adoption

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2016 the Cabinet approved an updated Working in Partnership Framework for the Council. The Framework requires a review to be carried out every three years and the purpose of this report is to present the findings of the review and a revised Framework for adoption.

2. Review and update of the Working in Partnership Framework

- 2.1 Appendix two to the report sets out the revised Framework (and accompanying appendices) for the council.
- 2.2 The draft Framework was discussed at the meeting of the Performance & Administration Committee on 19 February 2019; the committee was supportive of the Framework and the changes/updates highlighted.

- 2.3 Specific changes that have been made are as follows:
 - 2.3.1 Updates to reflect changes in officer titles.
 - 2.3.2 Reference to the revised General Data Protection regulations and consideration of these when considering partnership and shared-working arrangements.
 - 2.3.3 Inclusion of the principles that have been agreed across North Kent for the development of shared working arrangements.
 - 2.3.4 Inclusion within the Partnership Evaluation Form of specific consideration to Safeguarding obligations.
- 2.4 The Working in Partnership Framework will be reviewed at least once every three years with the outcomes of this review reported to Cabinet and Council accordingly.
- 2.5 As previously agreed by the Cabinet and Full Council, changes which do not have a material effect on the document and its content will require only Cabinet approval.
- 2.6 Cabinet are requested to review and, subject to any alterations/amendments agreed by Cabinet, approve the revised Working in Partnership Framework shown at appendix two, for submission to Full Council for formal adoption.

3. Background Papers

- 3.1 There are no background papers pertaining to this report.

IMPLICATIONS		APPENDIX 1
Legal	There are no legal implications arising from this. As a requirement of the council's Working in Partnership Framework, all potential partnership opportunities and shared working arrangements are formally considered by the Monitoring Officer to ensure that the legal aspects of proposals are taken into account prior to entering into a new arrangement.	
Finance and Value for Money	Partnerships and shared working arrangements can present financial and value for money savings to the council. The council's Working in Partnership Framework requires all potential partnership opportunities and shared working arrangements to be formally considered by the Section 151 Officer to ensure that the financial aspects of all proposals are taken into account prior to entering into a new partnership.	
Risk Assessment	<p>Partnerships and shared working arrangements are becoming more and more prevalent in the work of the council and the efficient and effective delivery of services and corporate objectives. It is therefore important that the council has a clear framework for identifying and progressing partnership and shared working opportunities to ensure those which truly assist in delivering the council's objectives and/or present an efficiency saving to the council are progressed.</p> <p>The council's Working in Partnership Framework requires all potential partnership opportunities and shared working arrangements to be risk assessed but also for the risk assessment process to be undertaken on a regular basis throughout the life of the arrangement.</p>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<p>Screening for Equality Impacts</p> <p>Question</p> <p>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? If yes, please explain answer.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">No</p> <p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">No</p> <p><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></p>	
Corporate Plan	<p>Partnership and shared working will potentially contribute to all of the strategic objectives of the council. Specifically, it contributes to Objective Four – Sound and self-sufficient council, and the following commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver on opportunities for the sharing and selling of council services. • Continuously review and adapt how we deliver our services to achieve financial efficiencies and improved performance. 	

IMPLICATIONS**APPENDIX 1****Crime and Disorder**

The Working in Partnership Framework will be used for the development of all new partnerships and will therefore pick up any issues relating to the Crime and Disorder Act.

Digital and website implications

There are no digital or website implications arising from this report.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Consideration of Safeguarding implications has been built into the process for implementing and revising partnerships, as set out in the *Working in Partnership* Framework.