



GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Register of Partnerships and Shared Working Arrangements

July 2022

A summary of partnership and shared working
arrangements

Strategic Environment Cabinet Committee

Gravesham Borough Council

Register of Partnerships and Shared Working Arrangements

– July 2022

- 2 -

Introduction

The council maintains a comprehensive register of its partnerships and shared working arrangement that is reviewed on an annual basis.

Partnerships

The council defines a partnership as ***“an agreement between the Council and one or more independent bodies to work together to achieve the council’s Corporate objectives”***.

In addition to this, the council also splits the partnership register into ‘Significant’ and ‘Key other partnerships’. In order for a partnership to be classified as significant it must meet the following definition:

“A partnership for which there is a council resource provision of £50,000 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. This will also include those partnerships that have been established to deliver legal or statutory requirements on behalf of the council.”

The council is currently involved in the following partnerships:

| Page Ref. | Name of Partnership | Significant |
|-----------|---|-------------|
| 3 | North West Kent Countryside Partnership | |

Glossary of Terms (Page 5)

Throughout the document, there are a number of terms that are used and it was felt that it would be useful to provide a ‘Glossary of Terms’ in order to provide further clarification of some of the terminology used within the document.

Gravesham Borough Council
Register of Partnerships and Shared Working Arrangements
– July 2022

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| Name of Partnership | North West Kent Countryside Partnership |
| Responsible Officer | Nick Brown, Director (Environment) Director (Communities) |
| Lead Member(s) | Councillor Lauren Sullivan, Lead Member for Strategic Environment |
| Statutory Status | Non Statutory |
| Aims and objectives of partnership | <p>To develop a partnership between organisations representing central and local government and the private and voluntary sectors to deliver a community countryside management service across the countryside and green spaces of the Partnership Area. The Partnership operates a Not for Profit Service to the local community through a Memorandum of Agreement.</p> <p>The Partnership involves working in partnership with landowners, local communities and other agencies to enhance the countryside, rural fringe, towns and villages of the North West Kent area. This is through direct community involvement thereby increasing access, knowledge and understanding of local environmental issues.</p> <p>The Partnership works within four main theme areas: Landscape Biodiversity & Access, Community-Based Initiatives, Education & Learning and Health and Well-being.</p> <p>The main aims of the Partnership are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage, special landscape character and the biodiversity of the Partnership area; • Support, work in partnership with and assist communities to undertake projects and practical action that conserves their local environment, urban green-space and countryside; • Develop opportunities for all members of the public to explore the countryside of the Partnership Area that are sustainable and support the other aims of the Partnership; • Promote respect and understanding of the countryside and increase knowledge of the issues that affect rural areas and the countryside around towns; • Promote and utilise the social and health benefits of the countryside and rural environment for both urban and rural communities; and • Develop sustainable tourism opportunities that support the rural economy and benefit the countryside of the Partnership Area. |
| Expected outcomes | <p>Enhanced quality of rural area coupled with better understanding and use of our countryside.</p> <p>Improved access to countryside by all sectors of the borough's residents.</p> <p>Use of volunteers to carry out many of the improvement schemes assists with public ownership of the area plus provides volunteers with additional skills that can be translated in to job opportunities.</p> <p>Improved health levels via the Naturally Active programme which encourages participants to benefit from a programme including health walks, enviro gyms, health and nutrition sessions and family activity days.</p> |
| Links to GBC Corporate Objectives | <p>Objective #2 – Place</p> <p><i>A dynamic borough; defined by a vibrant and productive local economy taking advantage of growth in the area, supported by its strong and active community.</i></p> |
| GBC Resources (financial, officer, assets etc.) | GBC does not provide Core Funding to the partnership. |

Gravesham Borough Council
Register of Partnerships and Shared Working Arrangements
– July 2022

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| Partnership membership | Core Funders – Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Council, London Borough of Bexley. Partnership Funders (fund in money or money's worth):- Environment Agency, Dartford Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit. | | |
| Governance arrangements | The Partnership has a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) running from September 2021 to August 2024. The MoA details the governance arrangements of the Partnership including the governance of the Partnership Steering Group. Specifically the MoA covers: (1) Remit; (2) Membership; (3) Voting rights; (4) Election of Chairman; (5) Frequency of Meetings; (6) Secretariat; (7) Agenda. In addition, the MoA outlines the operational arrangements of the Partnership. The Project operates under the day to day direction of a Partnership Manager with the assistance of such staff as the Partnership may require and as may be agreed by the Funding Members. The Partnership Manager is directly accountable to the Partnership Steering Group. | | |
| Financial reporting arrangements and timeframe for reporting | N/A | | |
| Performance monitoring arrangements and details of formal review of partnership arrangements. | The Partnership Manager prepares the following reports: A Management Strategy; An annual report on the Partnership and review of the forward programme and budget; Reports, financial forecasts and financial statements to every Steering Group meeting; and Agendas and minutes of each Steering Group to each Core and Partnership funder. | | |
| Risk Assessment | There is no risk attached to this Partnership. | | |
| Safeguarding Obligations | Children and some vulnerable adults may benefit from participation in volunteer groups or from the results of volunteers' work. The Partnership's Safeguarding policies and Procedures on Child Protection and on Vulnerable Adult Protection reflect and support those of the council. Contained in the Partnership's Safeguarding policies and procedures. | | |
| Equalities Obligations | N/A | | |
| Climate Change Considerations | Due to the nature of the partnership, all of its activities promote the natural environment, biodiversity and sustainability and as such, contribute to the councils overall climate change ambitions. | | |
| Date Partnership Created / Approved by Cabinet | 1984 | Date Partnership Terminates (if applicable) | N/A |

Significant partnership

Other partnership

Glossary of Terms

To provide assistance to officers, Members and members of the public when reading the council's Corporate Register of Partnerships, a **Glossary of Terms** has been developed to provide additional information about the meaning of some of the words included within the register.

| Term Used | Meaning |
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| Annual Report | A comprehensive report on an organisations activities over the past year, intended to give shareholders and other interested people information about the organisation's activities and financial performance. |
| Corporate Plan | A document which sets out Gravesham Borough Council's corporate priorities for a period of years and provides details of the actions to be undertaken towards achieving those objectives. |
| Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) | A written document describing the roles and responsibilities of two (or more) parties on a particular venture. An MOU is less formal than a contract, but is often signed by the parties involved to indicate their agreement to the principles contained in the MOU. A MOU is sometimes a precursor to a formal agreement. |
| Not for Profit Service | Not-for-profit organisations do not earn profits for their owners. All of the money earned by or donated to a not-for-profit organisation is used in pursuing the organisation's objectives and keeping it running; income is not distributed to the group's members, directors, or officers. |
| Partnership | The council defines a partnership as "an agreement between the Council and one or more independent bodies to work together to achieve the council's Corporate objectives". |
| Significant Partnership | A partnership for which there is a council resource provision of £50,000 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. This will also include those partnerships that have been established to deliver legal or statutory requirements on behalf of the council. |
| Steering Group | A steering group is a group of senior officers/partners who oversee the delivery of a project or partnership initiative. |