

Report to: Audit and Governance Committee



Date of Meeting 21 March 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Partnership Review 2022/23

Report summary:

Partnership information for the 2022/23 financial year until March 2023 is supplied to allow the Audit and Governance Committee to monitor the status of our partnerships. This follows the year-end review of partnerships by responsible officers for 2022/23.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That A&G committee receive the report for review in line with the current policy.

Reason for recommendation:

That the Audit and Governance Committee considers the current status of our partnerships.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Medium Risk; Failure to identify, assess, monitor, review and manage partnerships could impact negatively (i.e. financial, reputational, operationally) on the council.

Links to background information [Appendix A – Partnership Review 2022/23](#)

[Link to Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

Report in full

1. The EDDC's Partnership Policy requires all partnerships identified by the council to be reviewed annually. There are currently 12 active partnerships as defined by our policy which states that EDDC uses the following as the definition of a partnership: "An agreement between two or more independent bodies to work collectively to achieve an objective." Also a partnership must reflect the following criteria:
 - critical to the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.
 - strategic in nature.
 - require significant resource input from the Council.
 - have constitution and governance arrangements in place.
 - have multi-agency membership.
2. For this review all lead officers involved with a partnership were asked to assess the overall partnership, reviewing budget issues, achievements, forward plans and the ongoing benefit of continuing engagement with the partnership.
3. The partnerships are active and met at least three times annually, some more often. There are no major current budget issues with any of the partnerships although most receive some funding from EDDC. It is recommended that our involvement with each of the partnerships continues with benefits of continued engagement with each being outlined below.

Partnership	Active or inactive partnership	Benefit of continued engagement and links to council priorities
Shared ICT service with Exeter City and Teignbridge Councils (Strata)	Active	Council Plan Outstanding Council: efficiencies - both financial, time saving and service resilience
South West Audit Partnership (SWAP)	Active	Council Plan Outstanding Council: efficiencies - both financial, time saving and service resilience
Exeter Science Park (Exeter Science Park Company Ltd – ESPL)	Active	Key objective of the Council is delivery of a thriving, competitive local economy
Cranbrook Strategic Delivery Board	Active	The delivery of the Cranbrook new community cuts across all of the key priorities in the Council Plan.
Enterprise Zone	Active	Continued delivery of new employment space and job opportunities. Overcoming barriers to delivery including in relation to Cranbrook town centre.
Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafrost Group (formerly	Active	Better homes and communities for all. A resilient economy.

Partnership	Active or inactive partnership	Benefit of continued engagement and links to council priorities
Exmouth Queen's Drive Delivery Group)		<p>To monitor progress on achieving the delivery of Place Making in Exmouth Town and Seafront.</p> <p>To support further engagement of public and stakeholders.</p> <p>To liaise and share information with Exmouth Town Council and other stakeholders.</p>
Exe Estuary Partnership	Active	To support the conservation and management of an internationally site for both wildlife and to educate and inform its users.
Devon Rural Housing Partnership	Active	To help ensure that good quality rural affordable housing for local people continues to be delivered in an attempt to meet the need.
DCHOP (Devon & Cornwall Housing Options Partnership)	Active	<p>Sharing of good practice.</p> <p>Opportunity to discuss issues and solve problems with other LA's.</p> <p>Shared training (and cost benefits).</p> <p>Joint working opportunities, including joint funding bids.</p> <p>Consistent and supportive approach to challenges such as new government legislation, funding cuts etc</p>
Blackdown Hills National Landscape (formally AONB)	Active	<p>Proven partnership delivering Statutory AONB Management Plan and Duty of Regard for EDDC under Sec 85 CROW Act 2000</p> <p>Significant multiplier of EDDC's contribution</p> <p>Continuation of partnership working with key public and private sector partners.</p> <p>Ability to access additional funding for local projects</p> <p>Working with farming & local communities – e.g. via farm facilitation group (with 110 farmer members)</p>
East Devon National Landscape (formally AONB)	Active	<p>Proven partnership delivering Statutory AONB Management Plan and Duty of Regard for EDDC under Sec 85 CROW Act 2000</p> <p>Significant multiplier of EDDC's contribution</p> <p>Continuation of partnership working with key public and private sector partners.</p>

Partnership	Active or inactive partnership	Benefit of continued engagement and links to council priorities
		<p>Ability to access additional funding for local projects e.g. Arts engagement, undergrounding power lines, nature recovery</p> <p>Working with farming & local communities – East Devon Farmers Group</p>
East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership	Active	It is a statutory requirement, but it does demonstrate the added value of partnership working. Links to funding streams for OPCC and Safer Devon Partnership.

4. A report showing the partnerships detail appears in [Appendix A](#).

5. A SWAP review was recently undertaken into our partnership monitoring arrangements with findings on; a need to review current policy with a best practice example given to consider, formal periodic review on performance of partnerships and consider a process for the declarations of personal interests. These are under review and the outcome of this will be presented to the committee in due course, but we did not want to hold up the reporting process under our current policy.

Financial implications:

There are no current financial implications

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report.