

Report to: Audit and Governance Committee



Date of Meeting 23 September 2021

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

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## Partnership Review 2020/21

### Report summary:

Partnership information for the 2020/21 financial year until March 2021 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 2020/21.

### Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### Recommendation:

**That the Audit and Governance Committee considers the current status of our partnerships following the full partnership review undertaken in July 2021.**

### Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that the Partnership Management Policy and Guidance is being followed and all partnership are being monitored.

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### Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

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

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** High 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 – Year-end partnership review 2020/21](#)

**Link to [Council Plan](#):**

Priorities (check which apply)

- Outstanding Place and Environment
- Outstanding Homes and Communities
- Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
- Outstanding Council and Council Services

**Report in full**

1. The EDDC’s Partnership Policy requires all partnerships identified by the council to be reviewed annually. There are currently 11 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 year-end review for 2020/21 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. There is one partnership, that with LED, that has been removed from the partnership list as it was felt that this was a contractual relationship rather than a partnership and it is more appropriate to monitor the relationship by other means.
4. 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
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	Active	Key objective of the Council is delivery of a thriving, competitive local economy

Partnership	Active or inactive partnership	Benefit of continued engagement
(Exeter Science Park Company Ltd – ESPL)		
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.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sharing of good practice</li> <li>- opportunity to discuss issues and solve problems with other LA's</li> <li>- shared training (and cost benefits)</li> <li>- joint working opportunities, including joint funding bids</li> <li>- consistent and supportive approach to challenges such as new government legislation, funding cuts etc</li> </ul>
Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Active	<p>Proven partnership delivering AONB Management Plan and Duty of Regard for EDDC under Sec 85 CROW Act 2000.</p> <p>Significant leverage on EDDC funding.</p> <p>Strong cross-sector and community engagement and support.</p> <p>Key partnership targeting rural economy, farming and forestry.</p> <p>Policy development benefits eg LCA and bats</p> <p>Ambassador for EDDC/DCC.</p> <p>Working with farming &amp; local communities - ELM trials and facilitation group.</p>
East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Active	<p>Proven partnership delivering 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 e.g. Corry &amp; Coly NFM project.</p> <p>Working with farming &amp; local communities - ELM trials and facilitation 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.

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

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**Financial implications:**

No direct financial implications

**Legal implications:**

There are no direct legal implications