

Report to: Audit and Governance Committee



Date of Meeting 21 November 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

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## Partnership Policy approval

### Report summary:

This report introduces a refreshed Partnership Policy that sets out how we will manage and track our partnerships.

### Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

### Recommendation:

That Audit and Governance Committee considers and approves for adoption the refreshed version of our Partnership policy.

### Reason for recommendation:

Our Partnership Policy is an important document which has been reviewed and updated in line with all of our relevant legal obligations and best practice recommended by our auditors. We recommend the policy for approval.

Officer: Joanne Avery, Management Information Officer, [javery@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:javery@eastdevon.gov.uk)

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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; There are financial, reputational and organisational risks if we do not ensure that we manage our partnerships properly.

**Links to background information** [Full Partnership Policy](#)

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

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☐ Better homes and communities for all
  - ☐ A greener East Devon
  - ☒ A resilient economy
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## **Report in full**

### **East Devon District Council Partnership Policy and Guidance Purpose**

The policy aims to ensure that we conduct our business transparently, efficiently, and effectively, particularly in partnerships. It aims to protect the interests of the council and residents by understanding the purpose, costs, and benefits of partnerships and ensuring proper governance.

There are benefits and risks to working in partnership which need to be considered whenever we look to enter a Partnership.

These include:

- Benefits: Improved service delivery, better resource utilisation, and enhanced innovation.
- Risks: Potential for unclear objectives, unrealistic goals, financial burdens, and governance issues.

The refreshed policy sets out our definition and principles of partnership working and the categories we will use to help manage them.

We have developed this policy in line with some suggested best practice recommended to us by SWAP following an audit of partnerships earlier this year. This has included the way we record and monitor the outcomes of our partnership working. To help understand our process for the identification and monitoring of our partnerships we have included process map within the policy.

Once we have an agreed policy, we will be looking to review all our partnerships and present an updated Partnership Register to the committee in the new year.

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### **Financial implications:**

There are no direct financial implications in adopting the policy but the practices contained in the policy do promote value for money principles.

### **Legal implications:**

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report (Legal/2548/ALW)