

Report to: **Audit and Governance Committee**
Date of Meeting: 24 October 2019
Public Document: Yes
Exemption: None



Subject: **Partnership Review 2018/19**

Purpose of report: Partnership information for the 2018/19 financial year until March 2019 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 2018/19.

That the committee reviews the Partnership policy that has been updated as part of the cycle of policy revision.

Recommendation:

- 1. That the Audit and Governance Committee considers the current status of partnerships until March 2018.**
- 2. That the Audit and Governance Committee agrees the adoption of the reviewed Partnership policy**

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

To ensure that the Partnership Policy is proportionate and appropriate to the council's needs and that the current partnerships meet the required criteria.

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Financial implications: There are no direct financial implications.

Legal implications: There are no direct legal implications

Equalities impact: Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

Failure to assess, monitor and review our partnerships could impact negatively (i.e. financial, reputational, operationally) on the council.

Links to background information:

- [Appendix A – Year End Partnership Review 2018/19](#)
- [Appendix B – Partnership policy](#)

Link to Council Plan: Living, working, enjoying and outstanding Council

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 year end review for 2018/19 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 is now inactive, the Axminster Town Group. Multiple delivery opportunities are underway or planned for Axminster. However the Future Highstreets Fund bid was unsuccessful but with the prospect of re application. Early explorations of development project opportunities may lead to future partnership activity. This will be removed from the Partnership list for 2019/20.
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 (Exeter Science Park Company Ltd – ESPL)	Active	Key objective of the Council is delivery of a thriving, competitive local economy
Exmouth Queen's Drive Delivery Group	Active	Delivery of contemporary additions to the seafront leisure and visitor attractions to enhance

Partnership	Active or inactive partnership	Benefit of continued engagement
		local economy, social value and wider town reputation. Process of transition underway toward creating a Delivery Group to focus on completing Phase 3 of Queen's Drive redevelopment.
Greater Exeter Growth and Development Board	Active	Effective partnership working at a sub-regional level. Delivery of EDDC corporate objectives.
Exe Estuary Partnership	Active	To support the conservation and management of an internationally site for both wildlife and to educate and inform its users.
Leisure East Devon	Active	The Council maintains an oversight and is able to influence the work of our leisure partner through quarterly liaison meetings and regular interaction on joint projects.
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"> - sharing of good practice - opportunity to discuss issues and solve problems with other LA's - shared training (and cost benefits) - joint working opportunities, including joint funding bids - consistent and supportive approach to challenges such as new government legislation, funding cuts etc
Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven partnership delivering AONB Management Plan and Duty of Regard for EDDC under Sec 85 CROW Act 2000 • Significant multiplier of EDDC's contribution

Partnership	Active or inactive partnership	Benefit of continued engagement
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of partnership working with key public and private sector partners. • Ability to access additional funding for local project
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 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>
East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership	Active	It is a statutory requirement but it does demonstrate the added value of partnership working.

5. A report showing the partnerships detail appears in [Appendix A](#).
6. The Partnership policy has been reviewed by the Deputy Chief Executive and the Management Information Officer. The main points of the policy were agreed to be still relevant with no major changes being made.
7. A full copy of the Partnership Policy appears in [Appendix B](#).