

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: The Leader

REPORT NO: LSP03

DATE: 09/03/09

TITLE:	Partnership Policy
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Yes
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	December 2008

KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision	
COUNCIL AIMS/ PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr Linda Neal Leader	
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Quality Living Quality Organisation	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and appended to the report:	Full impact assessment required:
Equality and Diversity	N/A	
Crime and Disorder	N/A	
Risk		
Climate Change	N/A	
Health and Safety	N/A	
Data Quality		
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	CEX390	

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update cabinet on the development of a policy for governing the council's partnership activity. In April the Governance and Audit Committee considered a draft South Kesteven policy and agreed that officers consult more widely on the document. In consulting our neighbouring districts and the county council it was evident that they too wished to develop a similar policy and officers have worked with the county council and other council colleagues in producing a county-wide partnership policy. This is attached for your approval.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to approve the Partnership Policy 2008.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

The Council's Partnership work was audited in November 2007 by our internal auditors. A number of recommendations were made which are being addressed through the implementation of an action plan. One of the areas that the auditor's advised the council to focus on was in identifying significant partnerships which involved the council and to create a central register for such partnerships. For the purpose of the review a significant partnership was identified as one where we:

- Are required to have one by statute (e.g. Community Safety Partnership)
- Are the accountable body (manage budgets e.g. LSP, Town Centre Management Partnerships)
- Have a budget of more than £100K a year (e.g. Grantham Growth)

In developing the partnership register twelve such partnerships were identified across the authority – each having been set up in isolation. An audit-approved checklist was developed for existing and new partnerships to complete to ensure governance arrangements were in place and effective.

As a result of this work the need to have a policy for entering into partnerships was also identified.

Consultation with our district and county partners and with officers of South Kesteven District Council gave us the benefit of a wider viewpoint on such a policy and also showed that this authority was not alone in its aspiration to create a policy to ensure good governance amongst its significant partnerships. In order, therefore, to avoid duplication of effort and to standardise procedures a county-wide policy for partnerships has been drafted. Although the document is largely generic each partner organisation has completed specific local information or guidance to ensure that the policy is fit for purpose and a usable, working document.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED

None.

5. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

I welcome the production of a partnership policy to ensure robust governance arrangements are in place. Members are asked to ensure the draft policy covers all the key areas in order to fulfil the governance issues.

6. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

Many partnerships to which this Council is committed involve district and county wide organisations. It is important this policy has been drafted in consultation with those current partners and that a generic policy has been created. This will assist the partnership process and help achieve a consistent approach to the governance of partnerships.

The policy should be introduced with suitable training for all appropriate staff and members of the council.

7. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

This document is a welcome and relevant policy which can be utilised by all service managers and colleagues to ensure good practice when setting up partnerships on behalf of the authority. It will also assist in ensuring robust governance arrangements are in place.

Mark Jones – Head of Service – Partnerships and Community Safety

8. CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

The Partnership Policy was reviewed by Lincolnshire Assistant Chief Executives group in December 08 to ensure local relevance. It is now presented to the Cabinet for approval prior to it being presented to Council.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Carol Drury

Local Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator