

Report on Results of Feasibility Consultation

Registered Topic: Key Strategic Partnership Working (No 138)

This topic was registered by Cllr David Merrett in May 2006. The following officers and/or members have been consulted about these topics and have provided a response based on their professional knowledge.

Response from the Leader of the Council

“Given that partnerships are subject to a current Audit review I would have thought that any scrutiny involvement would need to be post the receipt of that report - albeit it now is probably more a matter for the Audit and Governance panel.

I think that the scrutiny request is flawed anyway as it seems to prejudge issues. (i.e. the wording on the proposal form assumes that something is wrong).

If you do choose to scrutinise "partnership" working, you will need to focus on a limited number of interfaces. Given the relationships between the Council and the voluntary and statutory sectors in the City - not least the funding arrangements - any likely definition of partnerships might involve hundreds, if not thousands, of bodies. I find it difficult to believe that it would be a sound use of our limited resources to examine more than a sample of the more significant ones”

The Leader also pointed out that although he chairs the LSP Board he does not exercise an executive powers through that role. He also considers that the current position on negotiating LAAs is relevant

Response from Policy Development Team

I don't have too much to add regarding this scrutiny topic, other than that I think issues identified in the scrutiny request would hopefully be being considered already e.g. identifying improvements to partnership working, especially as this issue has a high profile locally and nationally at the moment. Because of this high profile though, members may particularly want to find solutions and so scrutiny could create an added focus in doing this.

Response from Equalities Officer

Any evaluation of strategic partnerships should consider how effectively disadvantaged communities have been engaged, their concerns incorporated into the priorities, planning and performance monitoring of the partnership.

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For further information please contact the author of the report