

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	27th September 2010
Report of:	Monitoring Officer
Subject:	Standards in Partnerships Protocol

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the work undertaken to develop a protocol for values and behaviours for use within partnerships.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is invited to
- i) endorse the action taken by the Local Strategic Partnership to integrate the Standards in Partnerships Protocol into the LSP Partnership Agreement
 - ii) request the Head of the Partnership Team to produce an Annual Report for this Committee on the effectiveness of the Partnership Agreement
 - iii) request the Monitoring Officer to promote the agreement across Cheshire East for those Partnerships outside the Local Strategic Partnership Framework
 - iv) request the Constitution Committee to consider incorporating the agreed Protocol into the Constitution as part of its ongoing review

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 High standards are a cornerstone of good governance and should become embedded in the culture of organisations. It is as important to achieve good governance in partnership arrangements as it is in individual organisations.
- 3.3 The development of a "Standards in Partnerships" Protocol will help to achieve this.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 None. There is no policy on the development of such a partnership arrangement.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

7.1 None identified.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 None identified

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 No risks identified.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 Since the Autumn of 2008, Manchester City Council has assisted Standards for England in its work to develop a protocol for working in partnership. The key aim of the project was to develop a shared set of values and behaviours which will underpin partnership work.

11.2 At its meeting on 23rd November 2009 the Committee established a working group of Members and Officers be established, to develop a local protocol for use across Cheshire East. In its work, Officers will involve partners as appropriate.

11.3 The working group met on several occasions and prepared a draft Protocol for the Local Strategic Partnership. The draft Partnership Protocol was considered by the Cheshire East LSP Executive on 12 April 2010. At that time, the Executive was of the view that it required further consideration to assess the likely impact on statutory services such as Children's and Adult Services, as well as Safer Communities, in terms of access to confidential material.

11.4 The Protocol was considered again at the Executive meeting held on 17 May 2010, and it was resolved –

“That the principles contained within the draft Protocol be endorsed and developed and adapted for inclusion within Cheshire East's Partnership Agreements”.

- 11.5 A further meeting of the working group took place on 15th September and the Locality Business Manager (Partnerships Team) reported that the Protocol had been incorporated into the recently published Partnership Agreement that was going to be considered by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board on 23rd September. The Agreement is attached at Appendix 1 and the Partnership Team agreed to report annually to this Committee on its operation and to help promote the Protocol with partnerships outside of the Local Strategic Partnership Framework.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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