

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting:	18 th November 2010
Report of:	Monitoring Officer
Subject:	Standards in Partnerships Protocol

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report invites the Committee to recommend the Partnerships Protocol to Council for inclusion in the Constitution.

2.0 Recommendation

The Committee is invited to resolve that the Partnerships Protocol, as set out in Appendix 1, be recommended to Council for incorporation into the Council's Constitution.

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.
- 3.2 The incorporation of the 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 The inclusion of the Protocol in the Constitution will provide a framework to support the development of partnerships.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 None identified.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 None identified

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The Partnerships Protocol will help ensure high standards of governance between the council and its partners.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 At its meeting held on 23rd November 2009 the Committee established a working group of Members and Officers to develop a local protocol for use across Cheshire East.
- 10.3 The working group met on several occasions and prepared a draft Protocol for the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The draft Partnership Protocol was considered by the Cheshire East LSP Executive on 12th 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. A copy is attached as Appendix 1.
- 10.4 The Protocol was considered again at the LSP 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”.
- 10.5 A further meeting of the working group took place on 15th September at which time the Locality Business Manager (Partnerships Team) reported that the Protocol had been incorporated into the recently published Partnership Agreement which was to be considered by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board on 23rd September. The Partnership Agreement is attached at Appendix 2 and the Partnership Team has agreed to report annually to the Standards Committee on its operation and to help promote the Protocol within partnerships outside of the Local Strategic Partnership Framework.

- 10.6 At its meeting held on 27th September 2010, the Standards Committee endorsed the action taken by the Local Strategic Partnership to integrate the Standards in Partnerships Protocol into the LSP Partnership Agreement and agreed to recommend the Constitution

Committee to incorporate the Partnerships Protocol into the Council's Constitution.

11.0 Access to Information

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

Name: Chris Chapman
Designation: Monitoring Officer
Tel No: 01625 686637
Email: chris.chapman@cheshireeast.gov.uk