



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	18 FEBRUARY 2010
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION CLARE SLATER
TITLE OF REPORT:	SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To reconfirm the Councils list of Significant Partnerships, following adoption of the Partnership Protocol and an audit of partnerships.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members endorse the list of Significant Partnerships as recommended by officers as follows:
- North Yorkshire Audit Partnership
 - North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership
 - North Yorkshire Concessionary Fares Partnership
 - Moors and Coast Tourism Partnership
 - Ryedale Strategic Partnership – Incorporating Safer Ryedale

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 The recommendation is in line with the standards contained within the Councils Partnership Governance Protocol the purpose of which is to ensure good governance of the Council's partnership arrangements.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The Risk Register attached at annex A summarises the significant risks associated with the Councils involvement in the partnerships assessed as being 'Significant Partnerships'.

REPORT

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The Council has adopted a partnership protocol, the main objective of which is to ensure that the Council participates in successful partnerships that have robust

governance arrangements. The next phase of the implementation of the protocol has now been completed. An audit of the Councils' partnerships has been undertaken and all of the partnerships on the register have been assessed by officers for their level of significance against the following criteria:

- Partnership costs
- Link to council priorities
- Consequences
- Decision making
- Statutory or regulatory context
- Risk

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

6.1 The Council has agreed that Transforming the Council is one of its 5 priorities for 2009-13, with the strategic objective 'to develop the leadership, capacity and capability to deliver future improvements' and service priority of 'building our capacity to deliver through collaboration and working in partnership'.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Senior Management Team have fulfilled their role as required by the partnership protocol in undertaking an audit of all partnerships, maintaining a list of partnerships and assessing all partnerships in terms of their significance. Officers who are involved in the management of partnerships for the Council have been involved in this process.

8.0 REPORT DETAILS

8.1 The best practice checklist included in the Partnership Protocol is based on the CIPFA principles for good partnerships, and these need to be applied rigorously to the partnerships determined by the Council to be significant. Partnerships should have:

- **clear objectives** that link to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives.
- **clear organisational and staffing arrangements** in place, with clear accountabilities for those involved in the partnership and clarity with regard to the resources committed to it.
- **robust management and appropriate decision making** mechanisms in place. They should have a constitution and/or terms of reference and defined standards as to the way individuals within partnerships should behave.
- **robust performance management** arrangements for monitoring and reviewing how successfully targets are being met and sharing review findings amongst partners.
- **robust financial arrangements** in place, with clear budget setting and monitoring procedures and clear financial regulations and schemes of delegation.
- a clear process for identifying, prioritising and **managing risks**. Business continuity arrangements should also be in place.
- a transparent process for **information sharing** within the partnership and **public engagement arrangements** where there is communication with service users and the wider public.

- clear **exit arrangements** that allow for minimal disruption and the reallocation of resources.
- 8.2 A Significant Partnerships Risk Register and Risk Action Plan, be maintained on Covalent to manage the risks associated with the Council's involvement in these partnerships. See the risk matrix attached at annex A.
- 8.3 All the Councils Significant Partnerships will be expected to supply the Council with the following information:
- A risk register and action plan to be presented to this committee annually, with particular reference to the partnerships arrangement for business continuity.
 - Performance and finance reports from each partnership to be presented to the Community Services Committee (and at any point in the future the Commissioning Board), summarising the performance management arrangements for monitoring and reviewing how successfully services and outcomes are being delivered and the financial performance of the partnership.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The following implications for the council of all partnerships have been considered as part of the audit of partnerships using the good practice checklist to assess and monitor the health of all partnership:
1. Strategic fit and clarity of objectives
 2. Organisational and staffing arrangements
 3. Management and decision making
 4. Performance management and outcomes
 5. Financial arrangements
 6. Risk
 7. Information sharing and public engagement
 8. Exit arrangements

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Background Papers:
Partnership Protocol
Council Plan 2009-13

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
Ryedale.gov.uk