

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 22nd February 2019

Title of paper:	Partnership Governance – response to Audit Committee recommendations	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Colin Monckton, Director of Strategy and Policy	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Elaine Fox, Corporate Policy and Performance Officer, elaine.fox@nottinghamcity.gov.uk ; 0115 8764540	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To note the responses from partnerships to Audit Committee’s recommendations from its meeting of 30 th November 2018	
2	To note the responses to specific requests for information from Committee members at Audit Committee’s meeting of 30 th November 2018	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 At its meeting on 30th November 2018, Audit Committee received the annual report regarding the governance of Nottingham City Council’s ten significant partnerships. The register of partnerships is included at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The Committee accepted the recommendations made relating to the two partnerships which had their governance documents verified, these were the Crime and Drugs Partnership and Midlands Engine; these recommendations are included at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 Following approval at Audit Committee, the recommendations were passed to the relevant partnerships along with the specific queries and requests for further information made by members of Audit Committee at their November meeting. Additionally, reassurance requested from a member of Audit Committee about improvements to the Green Nottingham Partnership’s governance was passed to colleagues involved in the partnership. The responses to all recommendations and queries are included at Appendix 3.
- 1.4 It was requested that this information be brought back to February’s Audit Committee for discussion.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Partnership Governance Framework includes an annual ‘Health Check’ of each partnership which is significant to the City Council in terms of strategic, reputational or financial importance. This Health Check is designed to identify any risks to the Council from its involvement in any of the partnerships. The results of these Health Checks are reported to Audit Committee along with remedial actions that are needed to protect the Council from an unacceptable level of risk.
- 2.2 Each year, up to three partnerships are subject to verification of their governance documents by a member of the Corporate Policy and Performance team and a colleague from Internal Audit. The findings from the verification process is included in the annual report and presented to Audit Committee at its autumn meeting.

- 2.3 Following discussion, Audit Committee members requested the response to its recommendations and additional queries be brought back to its February meeting for further consideration, to include specific queries or areas of concern.
- 2.4 The partnerships for which recommendations were made or queries raised are as follows:
- 2.4.i Crime and Drugs Partnership (verified in 2018)
 - 2.4.ii Midlands Engine (verified in 2018)
 - 2.4.iii Green Nottingham Partnership
- 2.5 **Looking ahead**
Questionnaires for the 2019 partnership governance process are due to be sent during the summer for reporting back to Audit Committee in autumn 2019.
- 2.6 An updated verification schedule to 2025 is included at Appendix 4. The partnerships due to be verified in 2019 have been informed so that they have ample opportunity to collate the documents required. This is communicated in advance each year. The partnerships due to be verified in 2019 are:
- 2.6.i Green Nottingham Partnership
 - 2.6.ii D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
 - 2.6.iii Children's Partnership Board

3 BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 None.

4 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 4.1 Partnership Governance Framework, approved by the Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee on 13 May 2009.