

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 17 January 2012

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

To summarise recent developments in connection with the Local Strategic Partnership, (LSP), the Slough Forward Partnership Board, and work to review the governance of the Council's partnerships.

##### **2 Recommendation/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Committee note the report.

##### **3 Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities**

The SCS, which was refreshed in 2011, sets out the strategic objectives and priorities for the borough until 2028:

- Economy and Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing
- Regeneration and Environment
- Safer Communities

The LSP has been the overarching partnership for the borough and agreed the refreshed SCS. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the refreshed SCS at its October meeting.

##### **4 Other Implications**

(a) Financial – there are no financial implications.

(b) Risk Management – risk management forms part of the partnership audit and it will be important to ensure that partnerships have assessed their risks and taken action to mitigate these.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications – there are no implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment – the equalities implications of partnerships are addressed as part of the partnerships audit.

(e) Workforce – there are no implications.

## 5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 Slough Forward Partnership was the borough's Local Strategic Partnership. It included representatives from Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services, Slough Council for Voluntary Service, NHS Berkshire and business. The LSP was responsible for developing the SCS and delivery of the Local Area Agreement (LAA), which included targets that the council and partners committed to achieve in order to improve the lives of local people and to receive reward grant funding.
- 5.2 The change of government in May 2010 led to the removal of the requirement to operate an LSP and to produce an SCS and the LAA reward grant funding ended. However, the Slough Forward Partnership continued to meet and to monitor achievement of the LAA (the targets formally ended in March 2011).
- 5.3 The partnership landscape has changed considerably over recent months. As part of the Health and Social Care Bill currently being considered by Parliament, there is a requirement to establish Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) by April 2013 (with Shadow HWBs in place by April 2012), as a result of the public health function transferring to local authorities from primary care trusts. More information about this forms part of a report that will be considered at the Health Scrutiny Panel on the 1 February 2012 and will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee in February for information. The remit of HWBs is similar to LSPs, as they are responsible for coordinating a response to the wider determinants of health, for example housing and employment. The Slough Forward Partnership therefore took the decision to wind up on 19 December 2011. The Shadow HWB has held a planning meeting and will hold its first full meeting on 23 January 2012.
- 5.4 The Shadow HWB will consider a governance structure to deliver its range of responsibilities and the refreshed SCS (for which an action plan is being developed). A number of Partnership Delivery Groups currently exist to deliver the former SCS, namely:
- Children's Partnership
  - Climate Change
  - Community Cohesion
  - Health and Wellbeing
  - Safer Slough
  - Skills, Employment and Enterprise

These will be reviewed and possible changes made over the coming months.

## 5.5 Partnership Governance Review

In June 2011, the Cabinet agreed a Partnership Governance Framework, to assess the way that a range of partnerships with which the Council is involved. CMT identified the following key partnerships to start this review:

- Berkshire SRG
- Equipment Stores
- Schools Forum
- Children's Safeguarding Board
- LSP
- Safer Slough
- Supporting People Programme
- Slough Leisure Partnership
- Adult Safeguarding Board
- Joint Care Packages

The governance review included meeting arrangements, protocols, risk, insurance, finance, legal and media issues. Any identified gaps have been dealt with via action plans. CMT are now agreeing a second phase of partnerships which will be assessed by the end of March. A Partnerships Register will then be created.

## 6 **Background Papers**

None.