

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance)	Executive Cabinet	22 November 2012

REFRESH OF THE KEY PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORK

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To present the updated key partnerships framework for approval.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the updated key partnerships framework be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- This report summarises the changes made to the key partnerships framework and its monitoring arrangements. The framework has been refreshed to bring it up to date, make it clearer to understand and to ensure that any unnecessary or duplicated processes are removed.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) (If the recommendations are accepted)

- To ensure that the Council has an up to date and robust framework in place to support the effective governance and monitoring arrangements of the Council's key partnerships.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	√	A strong local economy	√
Clean, safe and healthy communities	√	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	√

BACKGROUND

7. The Council's key partnerships framework was first developed and approved in 2007 in response to Audit Commission feedback about the lack of satisfactory monitoring systems for the performance of the council's key partnership arrangements.
8. The framework identified the extent of the Council's key partnerships and put in place effective governance controls and monitoring arrangements to ensure the success of the partnerships and the achievement of the Council's priorities.
9. Responsibility for the key partnerships framework and its monitoring transferred from Procurement to Policy and Communications in late 2011 as part of the review of shared financial services. This was in order to free up some capacity in the procurement team and strengthen the performance and equality monitoring, while also reducing the duplication in reporting.

SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES TO THE FRAMEWORK

10. The key partnerships framework was last updated in November 2011, however following the transfer of responsibility for the framework and its monitoring and reporting, the framework has been reviewed again.
11. This review was carried out in consultation with senior officers responsible for some of the key partnerships, the principal procurement officer, the Head of Governance and the head of shared assurance services.
12. The updated key partnerships framework can be found in appendix A, however a summary of the changes made are shown in the table below:

Task/Change	Reason
General update of the document.	The document was last refreshed in November 2011 and contains reference to Use of Resources which has now been abolished; equality impact assessment which have now been replaced with integrated impact assessments; and references to data quality and reporting protocols were also out of date.
Review the level of content in the key partnerships framework	Consultation with some of the council's key contract managers has found there to be little need to add much more detail into the framework or duplicate other policy documents to which the framework refers.
Review of the wording, to make the document clear and easy to understand	The existing document was hard to read and overly complex in some places.
Review the list of key partnerships	The existing list contained some organisations which are no longer partners and also a number of missing partners, including South Ribble. Additionally, key suppliers have also been included in the list of key partnerships due to the impact their failure or failed relationships could have on the organisation.
Remove the annual request for key partners to sign up to the key partnership framework	The key partnership framework should be an overarching document, which is primarily used in the initial stages of developing new partnerships. If a contract is being used then it is expected that it will cover all elements of the key partnership framework and more, thereby superseding the need to sign up specifically to the framework. If a contract is not

	relevant for the key partner then control measures and governance arrangements should be set out in a memorandum of understanding. While governance arrangements should be monitored on an on-going basis, key partners will not be asked to provide formal annual statements unless there are significant changes are made to the framework or policies within it.
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13. The website currently has a copy of the key partnerships framework and list of key partners. These will need updating on approval of the refreshed framework, and links to the related governance policies should also be checked and updated as necessary.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

14. Part of the reason for reviewing the framework was to also review the monitoring arrangements that were in place for each of the partnerships and to ensure that monitoring wasn't duplicated.
15. It was felt that where key partners already have strong governance and reporting arrangements in place then the key partnership reporting should not duplicate these. Examples include the Chorley Partnership and Waste Management Partnership.
16. The list of key partnerships in the framework (appendix A) now also includes details of how each partnership is currently monitored, as well as identifying those where additional monitoring is recommended. This is to provide clarity and transparency to key partners, senior officers responsible for the key partnerships and also for members.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

17. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

18. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

19. There are no comments.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Framework for Partnership Working	February 2011	http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s31109/FrameworkforPartnershipWorkingUpdatedFeb2011.doc.pdf	Online

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Rebecca Huddleston	5779	16 th October 2012	Key Partnerships Monitoring Report Nov 12