

Performance Scrutiny Committee – 10 January 2019

Scrutiny of Partnerships

Report by the Policy and Performance Service Manager

Executive Summary:

This report sets out the results of discussions between Scrutiny Chairmen about the preferred method of scrutinising key partnerships in Oxfordshire. In previous years, an annual partnership report has been presented at Full Council. At the meeting on 6 November 2018, Council agreed that scrutiny committees should consider the report. Scrutiny Chairmen have decided that each committee should have targeted discussions at appropriate meetings and reported on as part of the scrutiny annual report to Council in July each year.

Introduction

1. In previous years an update has been presented to Full Council on Oxfordshire-wide partnerships that the County Council is engaged with and their activities during the year. On a motion carried at Council on 6 November 2018, it was agreed that this report should be referred to the relevant scrutiny committees for their consideration.
2. The Chairmen of the scrutiny committees have considered the ways in which partnerships are already subject to scrutiny and have agreed a revised method of scrutinising partnerships moving forward.

Partnerships subject to scrutiny

3. The table below outlines the current ways in which partnerships are already subject to scrutiny and any gaps that currently exist:

Name of partnership	Method of scrutiny
Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board	Joint Health Scrutiny Committee already scrutinises performance against the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board	Performance Scrutiny Committee calls the Chairs of both board to a meeting in the autumn to scrutinise their annual reports
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership	Performance Scrutiny Committee invites the LEP's Chief Executive to attend a meeting annually
Safer Oxfordshire Partnership	Performance Scrutiny Committee scrutinises performance of community

	safety services and comments on areas for improvement for consideration as part of future priorities in the Community Safety Agreement.
Thames Valley Emergency Services Collaboration	There is no formal scrutiny of the Collaboration itself, but the Performance Scrutiny Committee annually reviews the performance of the Fire and Rescue Service and invites the Thames Valley Police Chief Constable to attend and discuss his Delivery Plan
Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance	The effectiveness of the Alliance in achieving its stated aims is not currently scrutinised by any Council scrutiny committee, but could fall within the remit of the Performance Scrutiny Committee
Oxfordshire Environment Partnership	Although the Performance Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the County Council's performance in relation to waste and energy targets through regular business management reports, the impact or effectiveness of the OEP is not reviewed.
Oxfordshire Growth Board	A scrutiny advisory panel of members, drawn from across the councils, currently meets to oversee the delivery of the Oxfordshire housing and growth deal. The County Council's representatives on this panel are Cllrs John Sanders and Emily Smith. Each Council retains the authority to call-in decisions made by the Board in respect of their area – for the County Council this would be the within the remit of the Performance Scrutiny Committee.
Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board and Oxfordshire Early Years Board	Both Boards are in the process of being refreshed to ensure they truly reflect the complex educational structures in Oxfordshire and the right partners are involved to enable the effective strategies to be put in place. As such, no formal scrutiny of these partnerships is currently taking place, although this would fall within the remit of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny of partnerships moving forward

4. Scrutiny Chairmen have considered a number of options in relation to scrutinising partnerships moving forward. As outlined above, many of the partnerships are already scrutinised to varying degrees by the Council's three scrutiny committees at appropriate points throughout the year.
5. The Chairmen are of the view that scrutiny of each partnership is undertaken throughout the year via specific, targeted discussions at appropriate meetings and reported on as part of the scrutiny annual report to Council in July and that no annual partnership report is compiled. Political Group Leaders are also supportive of this proposal.
6. The Committee may wish to consider which partnerships to scrutinise in further detail as part of their work planning process.

Financial and Staff Implications

7. None arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

8. None arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

9. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - a) **note the revised approach to scrutiny of partnership arrangements moving forward; and**
 - b) **agree which Partnerships they may wish to scrutinise in more detail as part of their forward plan.**

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Background papers:

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