

 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21st December 2010		Agenda Item No. 8
Title	Scrutiny of Partnerships	
For further information about this report please contact	Andrew Jones Andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Deputy Chief Executive	
Wards of the District directly affected	None	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	None	
Background Papers	Executive Report 17 th March 2010 Executive Report 23 rd June 2010	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report author's relevant Deputy Chief Executive, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Deputy Chief Executive	30/11/10	Author
CMT		Chris Elliott Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		Michael Doody
Consultation Undertaken		
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report and associated scrutiny work explores the Council's partnership arrangements for the town centres of Leamington Spa, Kenilworth and Warwick. It encourages Members to discuss and assess the success or otherwise of the respective partnerships over the preceding twelve months.
- 1.2 The report describes a new approach to scrutiny which Members will want to discuss and upon which make comment.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members consider the partnership arrangements in place for the town centres of Leamington Spa, Kenilworth and Warwick making any recommendations considered appropriate.
- 2.2 Members consider the revised approach to Scrutiny making any recommendations considered appropriate.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Executive of 17th, March 2010 agreed the Council's policy for involvement in partnerships. Executive also agreed that before Warwick District Council enters into any future partnership, a report is brought to the Executive clearly spelling out the reasons for the proposed partnership arrangements along with a completed Partnership Checklist.
- 3.2 At its meeting of 23rd June 2010 Executive agreed that scrutiny of the Council's partnerships should be undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Committees and that the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Scrutiny Chairs, should determine the practical arrangements for how this should happen.
- 3.3 Members will be aware that Officers are encouraging the Scrutiny Committees to undertake their work in a variety of ways: Consideration of reports; interviews with officers and service users; observation of service delivery. Following discussions with Councillors Mrs Knight and Gifford, it was felt useful to trial the new approach to scrutiny in two areas of partnership working namely, dual-use leisure sites (to be considered by Finance & Audit) and Town Centre Management arrangements (to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny).
- 3.4 The process for reviewing Town Centre Partnership arrangements started with Lead Officers completing an Annual Health Check template (Appendix 1) describing the outcomes for the respective partnerships over the last twelve months. This template builds-on the Partnership Checklist which is already in place for all of the Council's partnerships. With this background information, Councillors De-Lara-Bond, Gifford and Wilkinson agreed which of the town centres' partnership arrangements they would consider and have since undertaken the necessary exploration to be in a position to report their findings this evening.
- 3.5 When considering this report Members will not only have background information from Officers but will also be able to hear testimony from Councillors.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered as Executive had requested that scrutiny of the Council's partnerships be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny process could have relied wholly on Members receiving a report, however, this would have been contrary to Council's Systems Thinking approach of understanding service delivery from the customer's perspective.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 There are no budgetary implications as a consequence of this report.

6. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 Executive agreed the Council's Partnership Policy at its meetings of 17th March 2010. The Policy ensures that there is a robust business case for entering into a partnership and provides for ongoing scrutiny of the arrangements through the Council's Scrutiny Committees.
- 6.2 The Council has put Systems Thinking at the heart of its approach to service design. Members are being encouraged to use Systems Thinking principles when undertaking their roles on the Scrutiny Committees.