

 <b>Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> August 2011</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>7</b>
<b>Title</b>	Scrutiny of Partnerships	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Andrew Jones <a href="mailto:Andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk">Andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk</a> (01926) 456830	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	None	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	N/A	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Executive Report 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2010 Executive Report 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2010	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality &amp; Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No (If No state why below)
N/A.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2011	Author
Head of Service		Mike Snow Susie Drummond
Portfolio Holder(s)		Councillor Mobbs Councillor Mrs Grainger
Consultation & Community Engagement		
N/A		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report highlights two of the Council's key partnership arrangements. It encourages Members to discuss, investigate and assess the success or otherwise of the respective partnerships over the preceding twelve months.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Members consider the Warwick District Council/Stratford District Council Business Rates Shared Service and the Warwickshire Direct Partnership making any appropriate recommendations to officers.

## **3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 At its meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- 3.2 Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee has previously completed an investigation into the Council's Dual-use leisure arrangements. The findings from this investigation had been very useful for officers and specifically in relation to Sydenham centre has helped inform a report on this cycle's Executive Agenda.
- 3.3 The process for reviewing the partnerships starts with lead officers completing an Annual Health Check template describing the outcomes for the respective partnerships over the last twelve months and builds-on the Partnership Checklist which is already in place for all of the Council's partnerships. Copies of these are attached as appendices 1 to 3 for both Warwickshire Direct Partnership and the Shared Business Rates Service.
- 3.4 Members will now wish to consider if they wish to investigate the respective arrangements in further depth by way of face-to-face interviews with officers or visits to partners. The choice lies entirely with the Committee and it may consider that a different approach should be exercised.
- 3.5 At Appendix 4 of this report is a summary of the work of Warwickshire Direct Partnership. At Appendix 5 the Benefits and Revenues Manager has provided a year-end report in respect of the Shared Business Rates Service.

## **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered as Executive had requested that scrutiny of the Council's partnerships is undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees.

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.