

For publication

Partnerships Protocol (J030)

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	09.04.2019
Cabinet portfolio:	Deputy Leader
Report by:	Assistant Director – Policy and Communications

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present for approval the Partnerships Protocol 2019 – 2023.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Partnerships Protocol 2019 – 2023 is approved and implemented.
- 2.2 That the Deputy Leader is given delegated authority to approve minor amendments to the Partnerships Protocol between the formal review periods.
- 2.3 That the Partnership Protocol is reviewed in-line with the four year Council Plan in 2023.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Monitoring arrangements for partnerships had been flagged up as a medium level priority within the Chesterfield Borough

Council Annual Governance Statement. As part of the annual action plan it was agreed at Standards and Audit Committee in February 2019 that partnership monitoring arrangements would be developed to coincide with the launch of the new four year Council Plan 2019 – 2023. The protocol in conjunction with the Council Plan will maximise benefits for the Council and our communities from partnership delivery.

4.0 The Partnerships Protocol

4.1 Partnership working is an increasingly important way in which Local Government can deliver more efficient and effective services to local residents. Chesterfield Borough Council is a member of a number of partnerships with organisations across the county and region, and in some cases responsible for establishing and leading these partnerships.

4.2 The protocol attached at Appendix 1 establishes minimum standards of governance and management to be followed by partnerships in order to satisfy the Council that the partnerships are being well run and are delivering benefit to the authority and our communities. The protocol outlines key requirements in initiating, approving, setting up, operating, reviewing and exiting partnership arrangements.

5.0 Equalities

5.1 Equality, diversity and social inclusion are key areas where partnership working can deliver additional benefits to our communities. This protocol seeks to maximise those benefits and minimise potential negative impacts by enhancing monitoring and governance arrangements.

6.0 Resource implications

6.1 The enhanced monitoring and governance arrangements set out in the protocol can be managed within existing resources.

The Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Management Team are responsible for ensuring that all appropriate approvals are obtained before any negotiations are concluded in relation to work with partnerships.

- 6.2 Finance and Performance Board will need to be satisfied that the Council can contribute effectively to the partnership, understand and agree the resource implications (financial, human resource and in-kind contributions) and have clarity that the partnership objectives are in line with Council priorities.

7.0 Risk management

Risks	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Residual Impact	Residual Likelihood
Poor governance and monitoring arrangements of partnerships.	H	M	Partnership protocol developed to provide monitoring and governance framework.	L	L
Poor use of resources and duplication of resources via partnership activity.	M	M	Partnership protocol developed to consider resource implications and provide a consistent viability and validity process for partnership activity.	L	L

Some existing partnerships may require review or even withdrawal.	M	M	Partnership protocol developed to provide monitoring and governance arrangements plus a consistent viability and validity process. Partnerships falling short of these requirements will need to be reviewed, improvements made and if appropriate fair and transparent exit strategies developed.	L	L
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8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Partnerships Protocol 2019 – 2023 is approved and implemented.
- 8.2 That the Deputy Leader is given delegated authority to approve minor amendments to the Partnerships Protocol between the formal review periods.
- 8.3 That the Partnership Protocol is reviewed in-line with the four year Council Plan in 2023.

9.0 Reason for recommendations

- 9.1 To improve monitoring and governance arrangements for partnership working.

Decision information

Non-Key decision number	124
Wards affected	ALL

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
Donna Reddish – Assistant Director – Policy and Communications.	Donna.reddish@chesterfield.gov.uk
Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Partnerships Protocol 2019 - 2023