

3. PARTNERSHIP POLICY RATIFICATION (A.196/AG)

Proposal

- 1 To approve the Authority Policy for Partnerships reported to and agreed by Audit and Performance Committee in July 2008 (Minute 20/08) but now requiring full Authority ratification.

2 RECOMMENDATION:

That

1. **Authority approve the policy for partnerships in Annex 1 on the basis of the recommendation from Audit and Performance Committee of July 2008 (Minute 20/08).**

Policy/Legal Background

- 3 An initial Action Plan for making improvements to Authority partnership procedures was agreed by Audit and Performance Committee in April 2007 following a review and recommendations of a Member Scrutiny Panel for Partnerships in 2006.
- 4 An update to Audit and Performance in July 2008 explained that due to a number of factors that there had been delays in progress against the initial Action Plan and that officers wished to reflect revised National Park Management Plan and Service Plan reporting processes in a revised draft Policy.
- 5 The draft new Policy for Partnerships was agreed by Audit and Performance Committee in July 2008 along with a revised Action Plan for completing the work to implement the new policy (Min 20/08). The Policy document required Authority approval to be finalised and the Audit and Performance Committee are therefore recommending the document to full Authority Committee at this meeting.
- 6 A draft Partnership Working Protocol to guide officers in how to implement the Policy has also been approved now by Audit and Performance Committee in Oct 2008 and is being finalised by officers to reflect comments made at Committee and through an internal consultation.

Key Issues

- 7 Audit and Performance Committee in July 2008 agreed a revised approach to the Partnership Policy accepting the following principles for categorising partnerships and how they should be covered by the Policy and Working Protocol:
1. Partnerships that are 'strategic' in which the Authority seeks to influence a range of partner's contributions to our National Park Management Plan should be guided by a new partnership protocol and should be reviewed as part of the new processes around NPMP outcome and action monitoring.
 2. Partnerships that are about 'major service delivery' and for which the Authority is the accountable body or works with partners to deliver our Services (such as joint ranger services or tourism information) should also be guided by a new partnership protocol and should be reviewed as part of our Service Plan development and reporting processes.

3. Partnerships that are 'networking/professional' in which no Authority commitments or obligations are made and also those of a locally significant nature, should be managed as part of normal Service Plan and resource monitoring processes by Team Managers and Heads of Service.

8 A revised Action Plan was also agreed at Audit and Performance Committee in July 2008 (see below) that will be reported on at a future Audit & Performance Committee (see Action 5). Progress to date has been added in the final column.

Action	By whom	By when	Progress
1. Revise and agree policy with Members	CE/HoPRP	30 Aug 2008	A&P July 08 Auth Dec 08
2. Revise and agree working protocol	CE/HoPRP/ Mgmt Team	30 Oct 2008	A&P Oct 08
3. Assign and agree officer responsibilities and any developments in roles	HoPRP/ Mgmt Team	30 Oct 2008	PRP revised posts completed
4. Modify and update directory	PRP/HoS/IT	31 Mar 2009	
5. Provide progress report on Revised Action Plan to Audit & Performance	CE/HoPRP	31 Jul 2009	

Note:
 CE = Chief Executive
 HoPRP = Head of Policy, Research and Partnerships
 HoS = all Heads of Service
 Mgmt Team = Management Team
 IT = IT support (subject to resource capacity)

9 In order to finally ratify the Policy, Audit and Performance Committee agreed to recommend the Policy and revised Action Plan to a full Authority meeting and seek approval.

APPENDIX

Background

- 1 (see main report)

Resources

- 2 The Partnership Policy and Working Protocol assumes the processes will be accommodated within the current roles of officers with responsibility for partnerships and for monitoring these as part of the NPMP and Service Plans. They also set out the role of Strategic Management Team with a supporting co-ordination role now agreed within the Policy QA Team of Policy Research and Partnerships Service.

Risk Management

- 3 Risks associated with proposals for new or changing partnerships will be identified by use of the Policy and Working Protocol and through appropriate reports to Management Team and where appropriate Committee.

Human Rights, Equal Opportunities, Health & Safety

None apparent

Consultees

Officers, Management Team and Audit and Performance Committee (July 2008)

Enclosures

Annex 1 – Partnership Policy

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

None

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