

CABINET

21 JUNE 2006

SCRUTINY REVIEW – THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Contact Officer: Jacky Adams Tel No: 01962 848 356

RECENT REFERENCES

PS 233 – Scrutiny Review – The Winchester District Strategic Partnership
(Principal Scrutiny Committee – 5 June 2006)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As part of its work programme for 2005/06, the Principal Scrutiny Committee set up an Informal Scrutiny Group to undertake a review of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership. The review focused on whether the right people were sitting on the Winchester Local Strategic Partnership; what it was seeking to achieve in the short and longer term; how it knew that these were the right issues; and how City Councillors were kept abreast of and able to influence its work.

In summary, the review recognised that the Winchester District Strategic Partnership had taken time to establish itself as a partnership and had the potential to 'join up' the work of different organisations to meet shared targets aimed at improving the quality of life of residents. It also felt that, generally, the right people were involved, although there was a need to ensure that all parts of the District were properly represented. The review identified a need for the Community Strategy to focus on fewer targets and felt that the Winchester District Strategic Partnership should ensure that it was providing sufficient resources for its own administration to run effectively.

The review raised concerns about how well City Councillors were informed about the role and work of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership and identified a need for links to be strengthened.

The full report of the Informal Scrutiny Group setting out the process used and the evidence gathered through the review is attached to report PS233. This was agreed by Principal Scrutiny Committee on 5 June 2006. The recommendations are attached as an appendix to this report and will also be referred to the Winchester District Strategic Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Principal Scrutiny Committee be thanked for its valuable work on this important issue.
2. That the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive, considers the recommendations of the Principal Scrutiny Committee.
3. That a response to these recommendations forms part of the annual report from the Winchester District Strategic Partnership to the Principal Scrutiny Committee.

RELEVANCE TO CORPORATE STRATEGY

The Council's Corporate Strategy for 2005 – 2008 (current at the time this review was undertaken) includes the following wording:

"We will have in place a robust planning framework to link the vision set out in the Community Strategy and priorities set out in this Corporate Strategy with day-to-day targets and objectives. Over the period of this Strategy we will:

- *work with partners on the Local Strategic Partnership to ensure the Community Strategy is regularly reviewed and progress towards the improvements it identifies monitored;"*

This review was designed to examine how well these aims were being achieved and make recommendations for improvement that will help achieve the current aims in the 2006 – 2009 Corporate Strategy, which looks, amongst other things, to work as follows:

- "Partnership – ensuring we work with partner organisations to deliver real improvements to peoples' quality of life
- Clear Aims - maintaining an evidence based, outcome focused vision for the future endorsed by our community and translating this into priorities for action shared by our partners"

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The report draws attention to the need for some additional resources. It will be for the Winchester District Strategic Partnership Board and the Cabinet to decide whether to change the level of resources currently available to support the Strategic Partnership and its work.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Notes of meetings of the LSP Informal Scrutiny Group

Detailed notes of evidence given by former Councillor Campbell, County Councillor Roy Perry, Margaret Newbiggin (Chair of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership Board) and David Pryce-Jones (GOSE Observer on the Winchester LSP Board)

APPENDIX

The Winchester District Strategic Partnership – Recommendations of the Principal Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Review – Winchester District Strategic Partnership**Recommendations**

That the following issues be referred to the Winchester Local Strategic Partnership Board and the Cabinet for their consideration:

1. That, through the current review of the Community Strategy, the Winchester Local Strategic Partnership (WLSP) defines a small number of shared targets where greatest impact can be made through joint working, to give better focus to its work.
2. That the WLSP re-examines the resources available to support its work to ensure that these are sufficient to allow it to make sustained and sustainable progress in addressing its shared targets.
3. That the WLSP re-examines the frequency and timing of its meetings to ensure that these are best placed to take forward action on shared priorities and interact with other partnerships and networks that link to it.
4. That the WLSP reviews the Membership of its Board, associated partnerships and task and finish groups to ensure that the needs of the people living in all parts of the District are being properly integrated into its work, particularly where services are provided to residents from outside the District boundary.
5. That the Cabinet establishes a clear process for nominating City Council representatives to the LSP Board and its associated partnerships and networks.
6. That two way communications between the WLSP Board and City Councillors are strengthened, possibly through nominated 'champions'.