

2. Partnerships Audit Report Executive Summary

Audit Objective To ensure all new partnerships comply with the agreed partnerships protocol and to ensure a complete and up to date central register of partnerships
 This audit will also contribute to the corporate objective 'A well run council'

Assurance Opinion		Number of actions	
		Priority	Number
Satisfactory	Whilst there is a basically sound system of internal control there are weaknesses which put some of the objectives at risk or there is evidence that the level of non-compliance with some of the controls may put some of the objectives at risk.	High	0
		Medium	5
		Low/Advisory	1
		Total	6

Audit Approach and Scope
 The scope of the audit was to re-visit draft report dated February 2020 and to test a sample of newer partnerships to establish if the same issues remain utilising the CIPFA Partnerships self-assessment template.

Key controls tested	Assessment	Actions Raised
Policies and procedures		Partnership guidance not reviewed and updated since 2017 Guidance not published on the intranet Lack of awareness of guidance within OMB No requirement to assess net zero impacts
Recording of partnerships		
Assessment of new partnerships		The two 'partnerships' reviewed do not meet the definition of a partnership contained within guidance
Governance		

Summary and next steps
 Since the last audit was undertaken in February 2020, the central register of partnerships has been reviewed and updated at the request of members of the Audit & Governance Committee. It is now the responsibility of Executive Support to update it annually ahead of the new members induction which takes place following annual elections. The process to update the register for 2024-25 is currently in progress.

The agreement of remedial action to the issues arising in this report and subsequent implementation of those actions will further improve the partnership process control environment.