

ITEM NO: 2

Governance of Barnet Partnership Board

REPORT OF:

Chief Executive, London Borough of Barnet

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This report asks the Board to formally endorse the Terms of Reference and membership of the Board, to enable it to start its business.

INPUT REQUESTED FROM BARNET PARTNERSHIP BOARD:

To confirm the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Board as attached at Appendix A.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Further Details:

1. New proposals for the governance of strategic partnerships were agreed by Cabinet on 20 February 2012. These are attached at Appendix 'A'. The proposals were developed in consultation with partners and many of the final proposals reflected comments made during this process. The Principal of Barnet and Southgate College has been subsequently added to the membership of the Board.
2. Nevertheless, to ensure the new Board has an agreed understanding of its role and functions, members are requested to review and agree the Terms of Reference and proposed membership.
3. The Barnet Partnership Board will review these on an annual basis.

APPENDIX A

BARNET PARTNERSHIP CONSTITUTION, MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. OBJECTIVE OF BARNET PARTNERSHIP

The Barnet Partnership will act as an overarching partnership Board and only do what it can uniquely do rather than replicate the business of other meetings. It will act as a catalyst for action.

The role of the Partnership is to:

- Take an overview of the community's needs and the cross-cutting challenges facing the Borough;
- oversee the work of partnership boards;
- learn lessons across the public service and commission new pieces of work
- as a result, to be led by sub boards or task and finish project teams; and
- unlock any barriers to successful joint working.

The Board will fulfil any residual functions of a Local Strategic Partnership as required by Government guidance.

2. STATUS OF BARNET PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Barnet Partnership Board is an unincorporated body and therefore it does not have a legal personality. Its members work collectively within their own individual legal frameworks. While the Board can provide strategic advice, any financial or commissioning proposals must also be ratified by individual partners at their appropriate level of authority.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The Barnet Partnership Board membership is appended.

The Board will have the power to invite new members to ensure that the Partnership has a sufficiently broad representation to fulfil its remit and carry out its work programme. All new members should be proposed and seconded by a Board member and agreed at a meeting of the Board.

The Board will also have the power to invite additional members, including from the business and/or voluntary and community sector, to present on specific agenda items or to address a particular set of circumstances.

4. ORGANISATION OF PARTNERSHIP BOARD BUSINESS

The Board will meet twice a year- typically once in the early autumn and once in the Spring, at key points in the business planning cycle.

Paperwork will be kept to a minimum, while ensuring good principles of governance and transparency are followed. Partners will be engaged in the identification of priority areas of business for the Board. The Leader, on the advice of the Chief Executive, shall determine each agenda in the light of comments made.

5. CHAIR

The Chair of the Board shall be the Leader of Barnet Council (“the Leader”) or his/her nominee. Should the Leader be unable to be present, he/she will nominate another Board member to deputise as meeting chair.

6. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

Meetings of the Board will be held in public and agenda papers and minutes published on the Council’s website.

An Annual Report will be made on the work of the Barnet Partnership and the Boards and Task and Finish Groups that it oversees.

7. INITIAL MEMBERSHIP OF BARNET PARTNERSHIP

- Leader of the Council (Chair)
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships
- Cabinet Member chairs of sub-boards:
 - Cabinet Member for Public Health
 - Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement
 - Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families
- Policing; Borough Police Commander
- Health: NHS Borough Director Barnet for Barnet and/or Vice-Chair; and Chair of Clinical Commissioning Group
- Higher Education: Middlesex University Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Further Education; Principal, Barnet and Southgate College
- Jobs: District Manager, Job Centre Plus
- Business: initially, Centre Manager, Brent Cross

Membership of the Partnership could be widened to encourage wider dialogue with a broader range of contributors, including representatives from the local voluntary sector, business representatives and large employers, and the wider public sector (schools, fire, TfL). The procedure for doing this is set out in paragraph 3.