

**Committee:** Risk Management Steering Group  
**Date:** 25 September 2007  
**Title:** Significant Partnerships Report  
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ext 610

**Agenda Item**

**5**

Item for  
information

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### Summary

This report is was requested at the previous meeting to outline progress towards defining significant partnerships and identifying those currently in place between the Council and outside bodies.

### Recommendations

None

### Background Papers

Audit Commission KLoE section 4.1 – The Council manages its significant business risks

### Impact

Communication/Consultation	Work on identifying partnerships is being carried out in conjunction with Strategic Partnership team and the 2011 Project team for Shared and Collaborative Services.  Other local authorities have been consulted over their methods for risk assessing Partnerships.
Community Safety	None specifically identified
Equalities	None specifically identified
Finance	None specifically identified
Human Rights	None specifically identified
Legal implications	None specifically identified
Sustainability	None specifically identified

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Ward-specific impacts	None specifically identified
Workforce/Workplace	None specifically identified

## Situation

To be able to evidence the Audit Commissions KLOE level 3 that our risk management system covers partnership working, we need to identify the number and types of partnerships currently in place. Working with the Strategic Partnership team and Mike & Alaine - the 2011 Project for Shared and Collaborative Services, we aim to establish a register of all significant partnerships between the Council and outside bodies and establish a standardised risk assessment process for them.

Due to the diversity of partnerships and partnership working between the Council and outside bodies, it has been difficult to establish an inclusive definition for a partnership. In order to do this we have consulted with other local authorities and with the Strategic Partnership team have agreed the following definition of partnership. We consider it adequately reflects the varied types of partnerships currently in operation throughout the Council on which some level of risk assessment should be carried out.

*A partnership is a joint working arrangement where the partners:*

- *are otherwise independent bodies;*
- *agree to co-operate to achieve a common goal;*
- *create a new organisational structure or process to achieve this goal, separate from their own organisations;*
- *plan and implement a jointly agreed programme, often with joint staff or resources;*
- *share relevant information; or*
- *pool risks and rewards.*

Heads of Division have been asked for details of all partnerships and partnership working in their Divisions from which a Partnerships Register can be drawn up.

Once a Partnerships Register is in place, consideration can be given to the level and method of Risk Assessment appropriate for each identified partnership.

Draft Partnership Risk Assessment Guidance produced by Three Rivers District Council is currently being studied to establish if its format and content can be adapted for use by Uttlesford District Council

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**Risk Analysis**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
<p>The Council fails to manage its significant business risks resulting in criticism and declining performance</p>	<p>1 = Little or no Likelihood            The Council is in the process of embedding Risk Management throughout the authority</p>	<p>3 = Significant impact – action required            Failure to manage business risk could lead to inability to meet corporate and operational objectives and Adverse audit Commission report and damage to the Authority's reputation</p>	<p>Risk Management Strategy            Risk Management Steering Group            Corporate and Operational Risk Registers            Performance Select Committee</p>