

Report to	On
Cabinet	14 July 2021

Title	Portfolio Holder	Report of
Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework and Monitoring	Leader of the Council	Deputy Chief Executive

Is this report confidential?	Partially exempt:- The main report and Appendix A are available to the public. Appendix B – contains exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government 1972
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Purpose of the Report

1. To present for approval the Key Partnerships and Contracts Framework (included at appendix A) along with an initial update on current performance (appendix B).

Recommendations

2. That the framework be approved and adopted, and the performance noted.

Reasons for recommendations

3. As part of the South Ribble Annual Governance Statement there is an action to develop a Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework to ensure effective monitoring of key contracts and partnerships to demonstrate and evidence that they are delivering effective, efficient and economic services providing best value for the council.

Other options considered and rejected

4. The alternative is South Ribble Borough Council does not have a Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework in place. This has been rejected on the basis that there are key contracts and partnerships within the Council which would benefit from additional effective monitoring to demonstrate and evidence that they are delivering effective, efficient and economic services providing best value for the Council.

Corporate outcomes

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: *(tick all those applicable)*:

An exemplary council	x	Thriving communities	
A fair local economy that works for everyone		Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	

Background

6. Key partnerships and contracts are those that are especially significant due to their financial value, scale of resources involved, the length of contract term or whether they deliver a core service.
7. To ensure that they are closely monitored, the Key Partnerships and Contracts Framework aims to differentiate the level of governance applied and in doing so sets out:
 - The definition of a key contract or partnership
 - The contracts and partnerships that will be monitored under the framework
 - The approach to performance monitoring via Cabinet annually including financial assessment
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Governance expectations
8. The monitoring of key partnerships and contracts is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the framework. It informs members of:
 - The performance of the council's key contracts and partnerships against targets set for the current year;
 - Any emerging issues including whether the contract is on budget or is subject to any overspend or underspend of budget; and
 - An assessment of the key partner's financial strength and stability
9. This report includes an initial baseline position for the performance of key contracts and partnerships which will be developed further for annual review and update to Cabinet. Any new partnerships or contracts will also be incorporated through the annual review as per the framework.

Key Partnerships and Contracts Performance

10. Appendix B shows an initial position statement for the performance of each key partnership or contract within the framework at the end of April 2021.
11. Where partners are companies, they are assessed for financial stability and strength as and when new company accounts are filed, using independent appraisal reports from Credisafe, a commercial credit checking company. The reports identify a risk score and recommend maximum credit and contract limits. Additional relevant information is provided, derived mainly from official documents filed at Companies House.

12. Overall, the performance of all the key partnerships is positive and the financial assessment is strong with the financial standing of the majority of the key partnerships rated either good or excellent.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

13. Credit checks have been undertaken on all key partners and are presented within this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

14. There are no concerns from a Monitoring Officer perspective.

Appendices

Appendix A – Key Partnership and Contracts Framework

Appendix B - initial update on current performance (restricted information)

CHRIS SINNOTT
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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