

Oxfordshire Partnership Meeting – 26 November 2008

Governance review: Update on Progress with the Review of Governance Including Dates for Consultation and Agreement

1. The Review

The Public Service Board (PSB) commissioned a review of the governance arrangements of the partnerships which shall contribute to the delivery of the targets in the *Oxfordshire 2030* Delivery Plan. The PSB is keen to ensure that governance arrangements are robust and fit for the purpose of delivering on our pledges.

Mary Harpley (Chief Executive, Cherwell District Council) and David Neudegg (Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council) are leading the review, supported by Paul James (Head of Partnership Working, County Council) and officers from district councils.

The PSB considered the initial findings at their September meeting and asked that consultations continue so that proposals can be agreed at the February meeting of the PSB.

2. Update

The working group have received considerable feedback on the initial findings and proposals. The group met on 27 October to discuss these responses and agreed that :

- The feedback received was extremely useful for the development of proposals which shall improve the governance of, and communication between, partnerships;
- The group shall conduct face to face meetings with all partnerships in November and December to discuss proposals, issues and concerns.
- An interim report on progress shall be circulated in December to the PSB and all partners.
- Final proposals shall be developed with partnerships in January.
- Proposals for strengthening the governance of partnerships in Oxfordshire shall be considered by the PSB at their meeting on 18th February.
- It is anticipated that, wherever possible, any agreed changes shall be implemented from April 2009.

This review includes the Oxfordshire Partnership and therefore we will be looking at the membership and terms of reference. We are aware that the Chairman of the Partnership is due for review in June 2009. Nominations will be encouraged for this position at the next meeting in February 2009.

Paul James
Head of Partnership Working