

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**Audit Committee**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Report of:** Director of Bristol Partnership

**Title:** Bristol Partnership Risk Assessment and Value for Money - update

**Ward:** City wide

**Officer Presenting Report:** Helen Ball

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 922 2894

**RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to comment on the draft Bristol Partnership risk assessment and its work to deliver Value for Money

**Summary**

This is an annual report to the Audit Committee to give assurance about the Bristol Partnership's arrangements to assess risk and deliver value for money in its work.

**The significant issues in the report are:**

Appendix 1- draft Risk Assessment

## **Policy**

1. The Bristol Partnership is set up to deliver the Bristol 20:20 Plan.

## **Consultation**

### **2. Internal**

N/A

### **3. External**

N/A

## **Context**

4. The Bristol Partnership has established a Governance Group, made up of public sector partners, and chaired by Deborah Evans, Chief Executive of NHS Bristol and Vice Chair of the Bristol Partnership, to be responsible for performance management and the risk assessment for the Partnership as a whole.
5. The Governance Group meets quarterly. It undertakes a programme of review of each of the 5 Partnership Boards' risk assessments to ensure they are fit for purpose. It reviews the Partnership wide risk assessment on a quarterly basis.
6. The Bristol Partnership is in a period of transition, in part as a result of the new government's policy and fiscal changes, in part because of the ending of the Local Area Agreement, and in part because of the re-focussing on the delivery of the 20:20 Plan (and away from the LAA) . The Bristol Partnership at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011, will review the high level actions to deliver the 4 outcomes of the 20:20 Plan, with the aim of refining them from 31 actions to c16. The next stage will be to ensure that form follows function. This will be considered at the March meeting, and it is possible that there will be fewer Partnership Boards, taking into account the emergence of the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership).
7. These changes have impacted on the content of the risk assessment. As director, I have been asked to undertake a fundamental review of the risk assessment. Attached is a draft that will be considered by the Governance Group at its March meeting. The risks are Bristol Partnership wide risks, and are drawn from recent discussions at the Executive Board, and from risks identified through the Bristol Partnership 20:20 report cards ( which were reported on for the first time in November 2010). Members comments will be fed into this meeting.

## **8. Delivering Value for Money**

During 2010-11, the Bristol Partnership Executive reviewed the role and function of Bristol Partnership Team, and reduced the team by one post. Attached is a short paper dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010, which summarises the current position. The changes impacting on the Bristol Partnership (para 6 above) may further impact on support arrangements and delivery of value for money.

9. The budget of the Bristol Partnership has also been reviewed and reduced, from its original level of £350,000 to £280,000 in 2010-11, with a further planned reduction to £230,000 in 2011-12. The costs associated with the Partnership team are kept under review, and further savings will be made if practicable. The Bristol Partnership is jointly funded by the Council (£150K), NHS Bristol (£50K), Avon Fire and Rescue (£30K), and Avon and Somerset Constabulary (£50K). There is a 3 year agreement in place (2010- 2013), with annual review.
10. In terms of delivery, the LAA1 completed in March 2010, and the claim for reward monies has been submitted in December 2010, with receipt by end March 2011. The new government has reduced the amount of reward by 50% for LAA1, and is not delivering any reward money for LAA2, which has now also ceased (original end date March 2011). Of the 29 targets, 18 achieved 100%, 5 achieved between 60-100%, and 6 did not achieve the 60% threshold. This delivered £4.563m reward, which is allocated to the lead delivery agency. The council's reward monies have been included within the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2011-12. Comparative performance will not be known until post March 2011.
11. The Bristol Partnership Executive Board considered for the first time progress to deliver the 20:20 Plan (adopted November 2009) through the information contained in the report cards in November 2010 ([www.bristolpartnership.org](http://www.bristolpartnership.org)). The Executive Board considered that overall good progress was being made (Appendix 3). The identified risks re future delivery were noted, and will be addressed through the relevant Partnership Board and where appropriate incorporated in the Bristol Partnership risk assessment (risk 2 and 3).

## **Proposal**

Members are asked to comment on the draft Bristol Partnership risk assessment and its work to deliver Value for Money.

## **Other Options Considered**

12. N/A

## **Risk Assessment**

13. As set out above

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

14. N/A

**Environmental checklist - see attached**

## **Legal and Resource Implications**

### **Legal**

None sought

### **Financial**

#### **(a) Revenue**

None sought

#### **(b) Capital**

None sought

### **Land**

None sought

### **Personnel**

None sought

## **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Draft Bristol Partnership Executive Board Risk Assessment

Appendix 2 - Bristol Partnership support as at 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Appendix 3- Bristol Partnership Executive Board - Report Cards - 30<sup>th</sup>  
November 2010

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**  
**Background Papers: None**

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## Bristol Partnership - Executive Board - Risk Assessment

*Draft update as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011*

	Hazard/ Risk	Inherent Risk (Impact/ probability)	Current mitigation/ evaluation	Residual Risk (Impact/probability)
1.	<p>Partner agencies are under severe financial pressures.</p> <p>1.1 Risk of reduction of partnership activity</p> <p>1.2 Risk of unintended consequences of individual agency decisions which have detrimental impact on most vulnerable communities/ individuals in Bristol</p> <p>Owner : Helen Ball</p>	red	<p>1.1 BP Executive has actively addressed this risk since summer 2010, leading to review and sharpening of actions to deliver 20:20 outcomes in Jan 2011. The BP Exec will review how to deliver the outcomes ( Partnership Boards) in March 2011</p> <p>1.2 Governance Group will review how to ensure minimising unintended consequences at its March 2011 meeting</p>	red/amber
2.	<p>Continuing impact of poor economic climate and reductions in public sector investment, leading to increased unemployment, reduction in opportunities, disproportionate impact on most vulnerable communities</p> <p>Owner: David Bishop</p>	red	<p>Good quality data/ intelligence being provided through the Local Economic Assessment with regular updates, to underpin mitigation actions. LEP and BP jointly focussed on sustainable economic recovery by supporting our 5 priority high growth sectors and by supporting innovation. All Partnership Boards addressing this risk through their actions.</p>	red
3.	<p>Not making sufficient progress to deliver the Bristol 20:20 Plan</p>	Amber	<p>BP Governance Group agreed a Performance Management Framework in Nov 2010. Outcome</p>	Amber

	Hazard/ Risk	Inherent Risk (Impact/ probability)	Current mitigation/ evaluation	Residual Risk (Impact/probability)
	Owner: Helen Ball		report cards are being reviewed on a quarterly basis, and mitigation against identified risks are being tracked.	
4.	Lack of joint ownership across the Partnership Boards of safeguarding responsibilities could increase the risk of harm to children and young people. Lack of joint ownership of the corporate parenting agenda risks failing to deliver the desired outcomes for children looked after and therefore risks increasing future social problems as a result  Risk owner: Alison Jackson	amber	Identification as Bristol Partnership wide risk underpins mitigation action by all Partnership Boards. New Children and Young People's Plan (2011-14) - to be agreed by March 2011 - will directly address this risk and its mitigation	amber

**Bristol Partnership support****20<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

This short note summarises the outcomes of the recent review of the support to the Bristol Partnership, which was conducted in the light of existing resources from funding partners. There will be a further review once funding partners know their future budgets following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010. The focus of the current review was to consolidate support for the Partnership Theme Boards in order to facilitate delivery of the Bristol 20:20 Plan and, also, to contain costs where possible.

Helen Ball- Director

*responsibilities:*

- support to Executive Board, and chairs' meeting
- outward facing communication and leadership
- support and respond to challenges from Partnership Theme Boards and Equalities Action Group, including regular manager liaison meetings
- BCC scrutiny reporting and being held to account
- support to Governance Group, through leading the Performance Challenge Group, to ensure performance management reporting of delivery, and risk assessments in place and regularly reviewed
- support and liaise with Joint Intelligence Group, to ensure good quality data and intelligence is available to the Partnership
- ensure delivery of LAA and Bristol 20:20 Plan

Director supported by PA/ admin post and BCC Performance and Improvement officer. BCC Democratic Services offer minuting and clerking function to Partnership meetings where requested. The Partnership office is being relocated to the Council House over the summer, to reduce costs.

Partnership Theme Board Managers

*responsibilities:*

- support to Theme Board, and chair of Board
- ensure delivery of Bristol 20:20 Plan through Theme Board, and creating added value through joint work
- ensure performance management reporting of delivery, and risk assessments in place and regularly reviewed
- ensure synergy across Partnership, share good practice, avoid duplication, and identify partnership opportunities

Kate Davenport - Prosperous and Ambitious

Alison Jackson - Children's Trust

Liz McDougall - Health and Wellbeing

Alison Comley/ Rick Palmer - Safer Bristol

Di Robinson - Thriving Neighbourhoods Board

Gillian Douglas - Equalities Action Group  
Kathy Eastwood - Joint Intelligence Group

12<sup>th</sup> July 2010



## Report Cards

### ***Purpose of Report and Recommendations***

To receive the 8 report cards that summarise progress against the Bristol 20:20 Plan and consider how the information given may contribute to the development of priority actions in the delivery of the Bristol 20:20 Plan in 2011-12.

### ***Performance Management Framework***

1. The Governance Group has considered and agreed the Performance Management Framework for the delivery of the Bristol 20:20 Plan at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The report cards (attached) are the mechanism through which we can assess progress against the 20:20 Plan:  
4 Outcomes- to be reported quarterly;  
3 Challenges and 1 Opportunity to be reported 6 monthly  
There will be an annual report on progress to deliver the 20:20 Plan  
Partnership Boards will be asked to build relationships with the Core Cities to allow for appropriate benchmarking on performance to develop.

### ***Review of Report Cards***

2. Governance Group made the following comments on the Report Cards:
  - overall, the Report Cards demonstrate good progress in the delivery of the Bristol 20:20 Plan in its first year
  - this is a good first iteration of the Report Cards: Report Card 6- Affordable Housing was seen as the best example, and one to be shared with other Report Card Owners as the model for a completed Report Card
  - the major area which needs strengthened is Section 3 - Actions: clearer guidance will be drafted, which emphasises that the focus of this section should be on future actions, to tackle identified issues/ problems
  - on the first page, the commentaries can generally be strengthened by being explicit about what action is being taken; and that more detailed information is given re impact/ benefit for particular groups in the city ( to keep targeted on the most disadvantaged communities)
  - as the work on agreeing 20:20 Plan indicators is taken forward, then each Report Card will have a summary box of indicators that sit behind the Report Card, and whether or not these are on target or not- this will then set the Report Card content in context.

### ***Priorities for the delivery of the 20:20 Plan in 2011-12***

3. The information in the Report Cards will contribute to the Executive Board strategic discussion on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and will inform the development of priorities for delivery within the 20:20 Plan for 2011-12.

Deborah Evans  
Chair, Governance Group

Helen Ball  
Director, Bristol Partnership