

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12 July 2007
Subject:	Review of First Year of Partnership with Accord MP
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek Director People, Performance and Policy
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Susan Hall, Environment Services Portfolio Holder
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report outlines the proposal for a review of the lessons to be learnt from the first year of partnership with Accord MP in the delivery of public realm infrastructure services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillors are asked to:

- Agree to undertake the review of the council's partnership for public realm infrastructure services.
- Request that Performance and Finance Sub-Committee, at their next meeting, develop a detailed project plan and scope, with the intention of starting work on the project immediately.

SECTION 2 - REPORT

Brief Background

In April 2006 the council entered into a 5-year partnership arrangement with AccordMP to deliver public realm infrastructure services including:

- Design, contract and project management services
- Infrastructure works comprising: footway and carriageway maintenance, anti skid, patching, surfacing, gullies, fencing, lining, ground investigation, carriage crossings, general highway/civil/structural/ drainage/traffic, signs, responsive highways maintenance (including emergency response and winter gritting), street lighting, hard and soft landscaping, street furniture, CCTV infrastructure, playgrounds, parks and green belt
- Traffic and Road Safety services including investigations, surveys, design, consultation, promotions and other professional services.¹

These services had previously been delivered through 20 separate contracts and the consolidation of service delivery into one contractual relationship was expected to deliver a number of efficiencies and economies for the council. In particular, the benefits of the new arrangements were expected to include:

- Innovation in processes, management, design and construction
- End to end management of the design, works and administration processes
- A step change in the quality of delivery and design throughout the public realm
- A real drive to whole life costing and sustainable solutions
- Performance-led management of the partnership contract through a regime of key performance measures based on the council's priorities for the public realm
- Capacity gain generally and particularly in relation to ability to deal with peaks in workload
- Continuous improvement through development of industry best practice and professional leadership accessible through partnership
- Enhanced capability by having access to all relevant professional, technical and operational expertise
- Skills transfer to in house staff
- Access to partnership services [for] our partners²

Issue to be determined

The partnership has now been in operation for more than a year and the Overview and Scrutiny committee has been asked by the executive to consider what can be learnt from the first year's operation of this contract.

The Overview and Scrutiny committee is therefore asked to consider whether it wishes to undertake this project.

If the Committee agree to proceed, Performance and Finance Sub-Committee will, at their first meeting later in July, discuss detailed proposals for the review, including membership and a project plan, with a view to commencing evidence-gathering as soon as possible.

Option recommended and reasons for recommendation

Not appropriate to this report

Resources, costs and risks associated with recommendation

Costs of undertaking the review will be met from within the existing scrutiny budget. However, additional resources will be required from the public realm infrastructure

¹ Report to Cabinet 6th April 2006

² Ibid

service to support of the review. These resources cannot be quantified until the scope of the review is agreed by Performance and Finance.

Staffing/workforce consideration

The review of the lessons to be learnt from the first year's partnership with AccordMP will hopefully reveal useful information about the effective use of staff and their personal development in the delivery of a high profile, very technical service

Equalities Impact consideration

Development of a well thought out and designed public realm is fundamentally important to all citizens and can secure the engagement of all residents in the enjoyment of the local environment.

Current KPI's and Likely impact of decision on KPI's

There is a large number of KPI's that relate to this area of the council's work. These are listed below. The investigation of the performance of the partnership and the identification of lessons to be learnt from this can potentially have a positive impact on the performance of these KPIs.

- BVPI 119e
- BVPI 99a, b and c
- BVPI 223
- BVPI 224a and b
- BVPI 100
- BVPI 165
- BVPI 178
- BVPI 187
- BVPI 215a and b

Legal and Financial Comments

None specific to this report.

Community Safety (s17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998)

The delivery of a well-maintained, well-lit public realm is widely acknowledged to be a contributing factor to crime prevention and community safety.

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Chief Finance Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Barry Evans Date: 29 th May 2007
Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Stephen Dorian Date: 29 th May 2007

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact:

Lynne McAdam, Service Manager Scrutiny

Background Papers: Report to Cabinet 6th April 2006, 'Public Realm Infrastructure Services'

IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES/ NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES / NO
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	