COUNCIL MEETING – 21st July 2009

PARTNERSHIPS REVIEW COMMITTEE

29th June 2009

Present: Councillors Harrington (Chairman), Councillor G Lawman (Vice-Chairman, Councillors R Bell and Blackwell

(Councillor L Lawman attended the meeting)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bass, Bigley, Graves and Shram.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Code of Local Government Conduct and the Council’s Constitution, the under-mentioned Councillor declared an interest in the following item:

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<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Minute</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 05/05/09 be confirmed and signed.

4. ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9 AND WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Partnerships, Policy and Property was received on the Committee’s work in 2008/09 and a proposed work programme for 2009/10.

Appended to the report was the draft Annual report for 2008/09, which summarised the overview and scrutiny work carried out by the Committee in relation to the Council’s overarching PRIDE priorities and identified the wide range and variety of organisations and bodies scrutinised by the Committee and the proposed actions arising from that scrutiny.

The annual report also described the review work initiated by the Committee in relation to the relatively low levels of educational achievement in the
Borough. The outcomes of this review would impact on the work of the Wellingborough Partnership Prosper Group and the Wellingborough Education Partnership in 2009/10.

It was noted that the final version of the Annual report would be published on the Council’s website and hard copies would be placed in the Members’ Room and Council receptions.

The Committee discussed and agreed that the following themes/organisations would form the basis for the Committees work programme for 2009/10, which were structured around the Council’s PRIDE objectives and officers agreed to make arrangements for scrutiny sessions to take place:-

- NNDC/JPU/NEL
- Environment Agency
- Town Centre Partnership
- Affordable homes and housing provision in the Borough – large Registered Social Landlords in the Borough

- CDRP/Safer Community Teams
- Arson Task Force

- Wellingborough Education Partnership
- Social Services

- LAA
- LSP and Theme/Delivery Groups
- PCT/Hospital Trusts – Isebrook Hospital
- Selection from local organisations receiving financial support from the Council
- Other Voluntary sector organisations offering services to the community.

- Joint Waste Partnership/Arrangements for waste collection in the Borough
- Highways

The Chairman requested that any additional themes/organisations the Committee wished to scrutinise should be reported to the Chairman and/or the Committee Manager.

RESOLVED that the Annual report for 2008/09 and the work programme for 2009/10 be approved.
5. **UPDATE TO APRIL’S REPORT ENTITLED ‘HOW CAN WE HELP OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF ASPIRATION AND ATTAINMENT OF THEIR STUDENTS**

The annexed circulated report of the Corporate Director was received outlining developments since the April’s report on how the Council could increase its involvement in increasing levels of attainment in our secondary schools and thus improving life-chances for young people.

Opportunities for a closer working relationship between the Council and the Wellingborough Education Partnership (WEP) had been investigated, particularly with regard to how the organisation could link with existing partnerships.

Appendices 1 and 2 to the report detailed the relevant outcomes of the WEP action plan, which linked directly with the Wellingborough Partnership Prosper Group action plan, as identified in Appendix 3.

It was noted that the Prosper Group was looking to increase its business focus by working more closely with WEP to deliver some real results from an educational perspective.

Any suggestions/proposals resulting from forthcoming meetings would be brought back to the Wellingborough Partnership Steering Group for further discussion before proceeding.

Members requested clarification on the percentage of the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figure for Wellingborough; whether it was a decreasing or increasing figure and whether it was linked to the deprivation areas within the Borough. It was also suggested that a representative of the Hemmingwell Skills Centre attend the WEP meetings as the Centre could offer borough wide facilities.

**RESOLVED** that a more formal working relationship with the WEP would be advantageous and that WEP provide progress reports twice yearly, provisionally November 2009 and March 2010.

**R1 RECOMMENDED** that a report be taken to the Steering Group of the Wellingborough Partnership to detail the benefits that such a development could achieve.

The meeting concluded at 7.35pm