

**Report to** Cabinet  
11 March 2015  
**Report of** Executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods  
**Subject** An overview of external relationships, contracts and grants  
2015-16.

**Item**

**18**

## **KEY DECISION**

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### **Purpose**

To consider commissioned services for the period 2015-16. These are both planned and current relationships with external organisations including partnerships, grants, contracts and shared services.

### **Recommendation**

To note the partnerships and business relationships and contracts registers, as well as the grants to be awarded for 2015-16.

### **Corporate and service priorities**

The report helps to meet the corporate priority “Value for money services” and the service plan priority ‘Effective coordination of the council’s community and voluntary sector commissioning programme’

### **Financial implications**

No additional financial implications; all activity funded from existing budget.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Arthur – Leader

### **Contact officers**

Russell O’Keefe, Executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods 01603 212908

Phil Shreeve, Policy, performance and partnerships manager 01603 212356

Robin Hare, Strategic contracts manager 01603 212412

### **Background documents**

None

# Report

## Background

1. This report provides an overview of the council's formal relationships with external agencies, focusing mainly on commissioned services. It collates the current and proposed contractual, partnership and grant relationships across the council in one central place. This ensures a transparent and comprehensive picture for decision makers. Analysis is below, with detailed information in the Appendices. Bearing in mind the number of partners and contractors we work with, this is an overview and therefore further information is available upon request. Some information is for the previous financial year, others are intended for the coming financial year.

## Business relationships register

2. The corporate business relationship and contract management framework has been fully rolled out for the platinum and gold contracts and the second annual monitoring reviews have now taken place:
  - 11 'platinum' = high spend (over £500k) and high criticality business relationships and contracts
  - 20 'gold' = low spend (under £500k) and high criticality business relationships and contracts.

3.

11 Platinum Contracts, 385 indicators		
Green	340	Movement
Amber	27	20 ↑
Red	18	362 ↔ 3 ↓

Figure 1 – Framework performance data for the 11 platinum contracts

4. Information is currently being collated for the gold contracts and it is anticipated that cross cutting areas of concern will be identified by the end of March 2015.
5. There are over 80 bronze contracts; low spend and low criticality contracts and relationships.
6. Appendix 1 includes a chart outlining the platinum and gold business and contract relationships in place.

## Partnerships Register

7. The register now records 35 partnership arrangements and their corresponding partnership significance score. This compares with 34 partnerships on the register last year. One partnership has been removed and two added.

### 7.1. Partnerships removed

#### 7.1.1. Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

This partnership ended as an ongoing taskforce in November 2014 due to a lack of interest from other partners. However, we still undertake ad hoc pieces of work around the agenda with those partners as opportunities arise.

### 7.2. Partnerships added

#### 7.2.1. Healthy Norwich

This non-statutory partnership was established in February 2013 but until recently was considered to be a sub group of Norwich Locality Board which it still reports to. For further information see report to cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and Scrutiny Committee 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

#### 7.2.2. Norfolk Older People's Strategic Partnership Board

This strategic alliance was established in 2007 by Norfolk County Council who are the lead organisation, but has only now come on to the register. Its key objective is to deliver older people's services in partnership with health, community services, district councils, third sector organisations and others.

### 8. Highly significant partnerships

8.1. Through implementing the corporate governance framework the council has identified two highly significant partnerships compared to just one last year:

Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB)

Norwich and HCA strategic partnership

8.2. These highly significant partnerships will be assessed more rigorously for the strength of their governance arrangements, taking into consideration that governance arrangements should be proportionate to the risks involved.

8.3. Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board's change from major significance to highly significant.

8.4. The corporate risk register contains a risk that relates to safeguarding not being embedded throughout the council, its contractors and commissioned services and thereby children being at greater risk of harm if they are not embedded. This forms part of the council's duty to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the discharging of its functions and services.

### 9. Other partnerships

9.1. The majority of partnerships have remained static within their significance bandings with only the following changes:

9.1.1. Active Norfolk has changed from minor to moderate significance

9.1.2. Norwich Business Improvement District has changed from moderate to major significance

10. It is important to analyse scores of the partnerships which are not overall highly significant, in order to flag any individual lines that score highly and may require further focus. In particular, this supports the chief finance officer to review the financial performance of those partnerships which are financially highly significant but not classified as highly significant overall:

10.1.1. Greater Norwich Growth Board

10.1.2. Norfolk and Norwich Festival

10.1.3. Writers Centre Norwich

11. The exact amount of direct financial contribution the council makes to each partnership can be seen in appendix 1.

12. Similarly the following partnership which is not highly significant scores a five in relation to the purpose of the partnership: 'Is the Council required to set up the partnership by law or in order to receive additional funding or to meet the requirement of an assessment regime?'

12.1. Norfolk Community Safety Partnership

13. It is encouraging to note that eighteen of the partnerships score four or five in relation to links to corporate priorities: 'To what extent does the partnership contribute to the achievement of priorities in either the corporate plan or a service plan?'

### **Voluntary and community sector grants**

14. A total of £342,823 has been made available to voluntary and community sector organisations seeking grants for projects or ongoing costs in 2015-16. The amount awarded is an increase of 8.2% on the amount awarded in grants in 2014-15, resulting from our accessing external and partnership funding, which may not be extended beyond this financial year. In particular, Children's Services at Norfolk County Council have contributed £15,000 to the funding of social welfare advice work for children and young people. That figure does not include the pooled grant funding yet to be committed under the Healthy Norwich programme, which will include £40,000 from Norwich City Council. It also does not include small grants under £500 which are awarded over the course of the year.

15. Grants have been awarded against the following priorities from the new corporate plan 2015-2020:

Safe, clean and low carbon city

Prosperous and vibrant city

Fair City

Value for money services

16. The fifth priority 'Healthy city with good housing' is met through a mixture of contracts with specific providers as well as pooling budgets for grants awarded

through the Healthy Norwich programme with our partners, Norwich CCG and Norfolk Public Health.

17. Applications for grants were received to the value of £636,125, meaning the council has awarded 54% of the amount applied for. 19 awards of funding have been made to 22 organisations, including one organisation (The Garage Trust) receiving 2 awards, and one consortium of 5 organisations constituting a single award.
18. Attached (Appendix 2) is a breakdown of grants awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations in the period 2015/16 (although awards may be of a longer term). There is also a chart summarising awards against corporate priorities in Appendix 1. Small grants and partnership organisations have not been included in this breakdown. Small grants are decided during the time period; small grants are all for £500 or less and listed on the website when awarded.
19. Additionally we provide grants in kind to the value of £21,898, which covers 31 separate arrangements ranging in value from £16.00 to £3,547. Under these arrangements we provide 'in kind' support to a range of community and voluntary sector organisations through such things as officer time, use of buildings and parking space. These are outlined against service area in a graph in appendix 1.

## Integrated impact assessment



**NORWICH**  
City Council

### Report author to complete

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Committee date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
<b>Head of service:</b>	Russell O'Keefe
<b>Report subject:</b>	Business, contracts, partnerships and grants register
<b>Date assessed:</b>	02/03/2015
<b>Description:</b>	A register of intended relationships and funding for external organisations

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Value for money is one of the criteria for assessing grants, as well as partnerships when procuring and providing services
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased funding for and new model of delivery for financial inclusion services
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Through commissioning grants and contracts to organisations promoting welfare and well being of vulnerable residents
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above
Human Rights Act 1998	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above
Health and well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above - specific grants support cohesion agenda
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above - aligns to Fair City corporate priority
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specific grant funding around accessible travel
Natural and built environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grants and partnerships related to natural and built environment
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Recommendations from impact assessment	
<b>Positive</b>	
Ensure grants and partnerships processes continue to reflect wider relevant strategys, including reducing inequalities, environmental policy and Healthy Norwich	
<b>Negative</b>	
<b>Neutral</b>	
<b>Issues</b>	