



TO: Audit & Governance Committee

FROM: Policy and Partnerships Manager

DATE: 30th March 2021

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: All

WARDS AFFECTED: All

TITLE OF REPORT: Significant Partnerships Register 2020/21

1. PURPOSE

To provide Members with an update on the Significant Partnerships Register for 2020/21 (see appendix 1). The Register identifies all the significant partnerships the local authority is involved in as per the Audit & Governance Committee's Terms of Reference.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit & Governance Committee is asked to:

1. Review and approve the significant partnerships submitted for inclusion in the 2020/21 register

3. BACKGROUND

The Significant Partnerships Register was developed to determine what partnerships exist across the Council and of these, which ones would class as 'significant' (as defined by the Council's Code of Corporate Governance). The Register provides an annual opportunity to ensure that partnerships throughout the local authority are well governed and that appropriate oversight is in place.

4. RATIONALE

The Significant Partnerships Register is updated on an annual basis to review and assess partnerships to ensure that they continue to be relevant, offer value for money and that the intended outcomes are being achieved. Membership of partnerships is reviewed regularly within departments to ensure resources (assets, staff and financial) are utilised to maximum benefit.

5. KEY ISSUES

The Significant Partnerships Register 2020/21 has been updated with new partnerships, some of which have been created to support the Council's and Lancashire Resilience Forum's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The nature of the pandemic has resulted in over twenty-five groups being involved in the response (see appendix 2). Whilst not all of these groups are new or can be classified as significant partnerships, it highlights the breadth of partners involved in the response.

The following partnerships have been added to the Register this year:

1. Local Outbreak Engagement Board – This is a strategic engagement forum created to provide oversight of the BWD Covid response arrangements.

2. Health Protection Board – The Board has been developed to provide assurance to Elected Members, Chief Executives and national bodies, as required on the Blackburn with Darwen Covid 19 response arrangements. It also provides assurance to the LRF Strategic Commissioning Group on the functioning and arrangements of the Pan-Lancashire COVID19 response hub.
3. Barnfield Blackburn Ltd - The Company was set up for the purposes of acquiring the Milking Lane site, preparing the site for development and disposing of land parcels to 3rd parties for development.

The complete updated Register is attached as appendix A.

The Register is likely to be included in the Audit and Assurance annual audit schedule for 2021/22 and particular focus will be given to newly established partnerships.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications arising from this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATION

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

11. CONSULTATIONS

Individual Directors approve each entry on the register and the information within the related framework. Entries without a Director's signature are not accepted.

Contact Officer:	Mohsin Mulla (ext. 5525)
Date:	15 th March 2021
Background Papers:	Significant Partnerships Register (Appendix 1) Covid-19 Response Groups (Appendix 2)