

Committee	Date	Classification	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	7 February 2006	Unrestricted		
<b>Report of:</b> Sara Williams Assistant Chief Executive  <b>Originating Officer(s):</b> David McNulty Scrutiny Policy Officer Research and Scrutiny		<b>Title:</b> 'A Partnership for Success – the role of ward councillors in the Tower Hamlets Partnership' Scrutiny Working Group'  <b>Ward(s) affected:</b> All		

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report submits the recommendations and report of the 'Partnership for Success – the role of ward councillors in the Tower Hamlets Partnership' Scrutiny Working Group for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Endorse the draft report of the 'Partnership for Success' Working Group which is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2 Delegate authority to the Service Head, Research and Scrutiny in consultation with the Scrutiny Lead for Excellent Public Services to agree the final report before its submission to the Partnership Management Group and Cabinet.

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### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)

#### LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Background paper

Scrutiny Review File held in Scrutiny Policy Team

Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection

David McNulty  
020 7364 4636

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Working Group was established in September 2005 to investigate the role of ward councillors in the Tower Hamlets Partnership. A number of scrutiny councillors had identified this issue in light of the local evaluation of the Partnership and wider national debates on the role of members as community leaders.
- 3.2 The Group met a total of three times in producing the report. It first met with officers from the Partnership to examine the current role of members in the Partnership and consider the national context, in particular the ODPM's evaluation of LSPs and vision for local government 'Vibrant Local Leadership'.
- 3.3 As part of the review the Working Group conducted a survey of councillors, the Partnership Management Group, the Partnership Support Team and Area Directors seeking their views on the role of councillors in the Partnership. There was a positive response to the survey which provides a good evidence base for the report's conclusions and recommendations.
- 3.4 The report and recommendations raise issues for both the Partnership Management Group and the Council's Cabinet.

### **4. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)**

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

### **5. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **6. Equal Opportunity Implications**

- 6.1 An aspect of the report was how to improve the role of councillors in being able to connect with "hard to reach groups" and how this work which councillors regularly undertake links with the wider work of the Partnership.

### **7. Anti-Poverty Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct anti-poverty implications arising from the report.

### **8. Sustainable Action for a Greener Environment**

- 8.1 There are no direct actions for a greener environment arising from the report.

### **9. Risk Management**

- 9.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from the Working Group's report or recommendations.