

Contact Officer: Steve Copley

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday 28th November 2016

Present: Councillor Rob Walker (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Robert Light
Councillor Hilary Richards
Councillor Judith Hughes
Councillor Bill Armer

Apologies: Councillor Fazila Fadia
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor John Taylor

In attendance:

Observers: Councillor Gemma Wilson

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were noted on behalf of Cllrs Fazila Fadia, James Homewood and John Taylor. Cllr Bill Armer substituted for Cllr John Taylor.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting on 31 October 2016 were approved as a correct record

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

The meeting was held in public session.

5 Public Question Time

No questions were submitted.

6 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

7 Member Question Time

No questions were submitted.

8 Social Value

Following on from the discussion at the Policy Committee on 31 October 2016, Cllr Rob Walker, plus David Bundy and Chris Rowe from the Policy Team, presented the committee with the draft terms of reference and action plan for the work of the proposed task and finish group.

Members noted that the terms of reference would cover three main areas, namely:-

- To examine best practice from other local authorities with favourable reputations for their social value programmes and to learn of the latest developments in the social value field from organisations such as the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), to understand how social value in Kirklees could be improved.

- To explore the extent to which all council functions consider social value in terms of their impact on the third sector, particularly local third sector organisations who are contributing to our Early Intervention and Prevention objectives; and how this could be improved – e.g. the impact of charging or cost recovery.

- To examine the Council commissioning and procurement process in light of information derived from the work described above; assess how changes to commissioning and procurement can stimulate local social value and contribute to good growth.

Members of the Committee went on to discuss the three areas for consideration and, in summary, agreed that it would be useful to change the final term of reference to include a reference to economic development and local economic growth.

Members may also look to consider the work undertaken to develop the use of the “Bristol pound” initiative, and if something similar could be developed in Kirklees.

David Bundy explained that the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) would be invited to help with the work as they have worked with a number of local authorities to help improve their work on social value.

Members agreed that a range of third sector groups should be consulted, and the focus should be on the local and smaller to medium size groups as some of the larger third sector organisations may already have the size and systems to successfully navigate the local authority's procurement process.

Members considered the different ways in which this theme could be explored and agreed that a business networking group may prove useful in exploring which areas of the procurement process may be proving difficult.

Members were asked to contact David Bundy and Yolande Myers with suggestions on the groups that could be approached or visited.

Members were asked to express their interest in participating in the task and finish group, and expressions of interest were received from Cllrs Judith Hughes, Hilary Richards and Robert Light. Cllr Light also confirmed that Cllr John Taylor had expressed an interest.

Members also noted that all members of the council would be sent an e-mail offering them the opportunity to participate in the work of the task and finish group.

RESOLVED – Members of the Committee went on to resolve that:-

(1) The draft terms of reference for a task and finish group be agreed, subject to a number of minor changes, and subject to the final objective being 'to examine the Council commissioning and procurement process in light of information derived from the work described above; assess how changes to commissioning and procurement can stimulate local social value and contribute to growth which enhances the delivery of the social and economic practices of the Council'.

(2) The chair of the Social Value task and finish group be Cllr Rob Walker, and the membership of the group include Cllrs John Taylor, Judith Hughes, Hilary Richards and Robert Light.

(3) Officers to notify all members of the council and to offer them the opportunity to participate in the work of the task and finish group.

(4) The proposed action plan be agreed, that officers will produce a programme of meetings and work and that details and progress be shared with the task and finish group and Policy Committee.

9 Update on Passivhaus

Following on from the discussion at the Policy Committee on 31 October 2016, Cllr Andrew Cooper provided a brief update on the meetings and visits that had been undertaken to help progress the work on a draft policy statement on passivhaus.

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Members agreed that further consideration of the item should take place at the next Policy Committee, to allow Cllr Cooper to address the questions and meetings with elected members which had been highlighted at the Policy Committee meeting on 12 September 2016.

RESOLVED - Members of the Policy Committee resolved that:

(1) Cllr Andrew Cooper be thanked for giving a brief verbal update at today's meeting.

(2) That Cllr Andrew Cooper organise a meeting with members to address the issues and questions raised at the Policy Committee meeting on 12 September 2016.

(3) That a full and updated briefing paper be brought to the next meeting of the Policy Committee on 9 January 2017.

10 Policy Committee - Agenda Plan for 2016/17

The Committee received a copy of an agenda plan containing details of the proposed dates and items for future meetings.

RESOLVED - Members of the Policy Committee resolved that:

(1) Progress reports on Passivhaus and Social Value to be considered on 9th January 2017.

(2) The proposed item on "Waste strategy" be sub divided in to two sub items (a) waste collection and dealing with waste, and (b) the contract and future relationship with SITA/SUEZ