

Contact Officer: Steve Copley

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday 31st October 2016

Present: Councillor Rob Walker (Chair)
Councillor Fazila Fadia
Councillor David Hall
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Robert Light
Councillor Hilary Richards
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Judith Hughes

Apologies: Councillor Andrew Cooper

1 Membership of the Committee

Cllr Rob Walker welcomed Cllr Judith Hughes to the membership of the Policy Committee. Cllr Hughes has replaced Cllr Sheikh Ullah.

Apologies for absence were noted on behalf of Cllr Andrew Cooper.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - The Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting on 12 September 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 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were submitted.

7 Member Question Time

No questions were submitted.

8 Procurement and social value

John Heneghan and Chris Rowe, Policy Team, introduced a briefing note and presentation on the development and use of the Councils social value policy in the period from December 2013 to-date, plus the opportunities to re-assess the practical impact of the policy in terms of its stated priority social outcomes and look at ways in which these can be measured, refined and improved in line with the values and work on New Council.

The report also provided:-

- Some examples (case studies) of how our commissioning and procurement processes have changed since the introduction of the social value policy
- Opportunities to use social value to help inform decisions around service change and the use of budgets, and
- Evidence from research undertaken by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) with the Federation of Small Businesses in 2013 about local authorities and their procurement processes, and the extent to which local authorities do spend their money with local companies and firms.

The report also stressed that the Policy Committee must be clear about the activity and product they would like to develop from looking at social value, what difference the committee would like the policy to make and how this work adds to New Council and fits with Council priorities for 2016/17. With this in mind, it explained that if the Policy Committee did decide to look at social value, there were several key areas which could benefit from members input. For example:

- How we make social value central to the transformation to the New Council?
- How to embed social value at the heart of the commissioning and procurement process?

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- Building a toolkit to help measure the social value element of our own commissioning and procurement processes?
- How best to use social value to inform decisions around service change and budget decisions?
- How best to use social value in order to build/maintain a strong voluntary and charitable sector?
- How do we work collaboratively to build the business and third sector environment conducive to the application of social value?

Member of the Committee went on to discuss these questions, and, in summary, agreed that it would be useful to:-

- Consider creating an informal task and finish group to review the policy and some aspects of the work on social value to date
- To check what other local authorities have done to try to resolve the same issues i.e. Is there any evidence or information on any best practice that already exists elsewhere?
- To check which other organisations could help us with these questions – CLES, the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)
- To consider how and when the council considers questions on social value within its current commissioning and tendering processes for the procurement of goods and/or services i.e. how does it work? Is it a key question in the earliest stages of the process and subsequent chain of events?
- Explore the extent to which social value considerations inform decision making and the perceived trade-offs with income generation and budget savings.
- To consider if there are opportunities to review the process(es) that the local authority currently uses to construct and offer contracts and if this can be done in different ways to help more local businesses and people to bid for them i.e. could we do it differently? What are the barriers and risks involved?

In order to help progress matters, Cllrs Hughes, Light, Richards, Taylor and Walker agreed to hold an informal meeting with officers on 14 Nov 2016, to try to refine the scope for the work of the task and finish group, for consideration and approval at the next Policy Committee (28 Nov)

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

(1). John Heneghan and Chris Rowe be thanked for their briefing note and presentation on social value

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- (2). Officers to consider the comments and questions raised in today's meeting
- (3). Officers to convene a preliminary meeting with Cllrs Hughes, Light, Richards, Taylor and Walker to discuss the scope for the work of the proposed task and finish group on social value
- (4). The outcome of this work – including the questions on the proposed membership and terms of reference of the task and finish group – to be considered at the next Policy Committee meeting (28 Nov)

9 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.

Members also noted that "Parking" had been added as a new item to the potential list of items for the Policy Committee meeting on 28 Nov 2016. However, the date and details have still to be confirmed.

RESOLVED – That the agenda plan be noted.