

Contact Officer: Steve Copley

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday 3rd April 2017

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

Apologies: Councillor Andrew Cooper

1 Membership of the Committee

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

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting on 9 January 2017, were approved as a correct record.

Cllr Rob Walker used the minutes to deal with matters arising and to provide a brief progress report on some of the other items which the Policy Committee considered on 9 January 2017.

The Policy Committee went on to resolve that:-

- (1) The Policy Committee (3 April) will consider a position statement on the work on "Social value" to-date. A final report will be presented to a Policy Committee meeting in May 2017.
- (2) A revised report on "Passivhaus" will also be presented to the next Policy Committee meeting in May 2017.
- (3) Further work on the policy issues arising from the item on "Dealing with refuse and waste in Kirklees" be deferred for consideration by elected members in the 2017/18 municipal year.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

Today's 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 Social Value

Cllr Rob Walker, chair of the task and finish group on "Social value", along with David Bundy, Corporate Policy Officer, provided a progress report on the work of the group to-date.

The progress report provided a reminder on the terms of reference for the group, plus a position statement on what had been discussed in terms of the following objectives:

1. To learn from best practice and external research.
2. To explore the impact of work and potential barriers created by the council for the third sector when delivering social value and early intervention and prevention objectives.
3. To examine and understand the social value element in commissioning and procurement processes, and recommend (if necessary) changes; assess how these processes can stimulate local growth.
4. Examine the area of asset transfers and social value – particularly around the challenge of Physical Resources and Procurement meeting their income targets, set against the need to protect third sector groups who meet the councils EIP objectives (and who may be saving the council money by providing a specific service).
5. Establish how social value can be embedded into the Kirklees economic strategy.

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The debate went on to focus on the next steps and some possible recommendations for inclusion in the final report, which will be presented to a further meeting of the Policy Committee in May 2017. These include:

1. There is widespread agreement that the policy is good but there are significant challenges relating to its implementation.
2. Baseline figures and evidence base - this requires further work to ensure we have the correct data and a sustainable way of consistently gathering the right information. There is also the need for clarity on certain definitions i.e. local expenditure and our approach to temporary contracts etc.
3. There is the potential to commission CLES to carry out a 'social value diagnostic' including analysis and clarity on our current position.
4. In terms of implementation, can we highlight practical examples within the Council where the social value policy is embedded and being implemented? Is there potential to develop a pilot project with an area of service delivery that covers data collection and embedding the social value policy?
5. Further engagement with the business and third sector leaders to establish better working links on a more regular basis. The initial focus should be on the barriers currently being experienced by partners in relation to social value as well as a response to the recommendations from the task & finish group. Is there an opportunity for peer learning with business/third sector?
6. How are other 'anchor' institutions from both the public and private sector across Kirklees approaching social value? Is there opportunity for a joint social value charter and subsequent action plans for delivery?
7. In terms of asset transfer, how far should we go in ensuring the social value policy is met? What should be the Council's role once an asset has been transferred?
8. How can we benefit from the inclusive growth initiative being led by the Leeds City Region? Social value is a key part of inclusive growth, how could this help us deliver our outcomes?
9. Explore further opportunities with Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) with regards to social value
10. On-going research into how other local authorities are developing and delivering social value policies. We already have anecdotal evidence from Oldham and Doncaster but it's very much focused on producing a policy, not the implementation.

Members of the Policy Committee went on to agree that:

- The Kirklees policy on social value is still current. However, we should try to come up some practical proposal(s) that will make a real change and

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difference here in Kirklees. We need to come up with a proposal that will get councillors and officers interested. The proposals have to help the topic to gain traction within the organisation.

- Some other local authorities are more engaged and ahead of us with their work on social value. They recognise its importance and are actively looking for ways to make it work. For example, Manchester, where members interest and a working group help to keep the item in view and at the forefront of their discussions and thinking on the commissioning and provision of local services.
- Kirklees does need accurate figures to establish an accurate baseline on our local spend at present and for example how much is leaking out of the local economy. We also need it to help influence attitudes, change and the thinking of councillors and officers here in Kirklees.
- Officers should speak with colleagues at CLES – or another appropriate organisation – to try to carry out this analysis in 2017/18. Details of the brief and the potential costs for the work to be shared with the Policy Committee in May 2017, before the final report and recommendations are referred to Cabinet for consideration.
- Members noted that CLES helped to develop and influence the work that is taking place in Manchester. We should also enquire if CLES and Manchester would be willing to help us to do the same here in Kirklees and provide examples of what impact they have had with other councils/organisations.
- Calderdale and YPO have also offered to work with us to review some of the issues and to change and develop our procurement practices and the opportunities to involve other local organisations that could compete for our contracts for goods and services we will commission and procure.
- Our current procurement processes can be difficult to engage with and understand. Further work is required to engage with representatives from both the third sector and SME's to help promote the opportunities. It is important that we work more closely with them.
- Some pilot studies would help us to learn more about our current practices and the opportunities for change when dealing with both big and small contracts. The Cabinet should be asked to consider this – the methodology and principles involved – which may involve asking members of the Policy Committee to follow up on this task in 2017/18.
- Need to consider if social value is a key consideration when recommendations on the transfer of council assets to community groups are being considered. The advice and support which the council offers can also deter or hinder some organisations from developing some important projects which have social value. Plus, how do councillors and officers determine applications from multiple organisations when they are all interested in the

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same asset. How do they decide the importance, priority and sustainability associated with each bid?

- If Kirklees is going to look at the development and use of social value in its work, we should also encourage the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to do the same.

RESOLVED –

Members of the Committee resolved that:-

- (1) Today's progress report be received and noted.
- (2) That the comments and ideas offered up in today's discussion be developed within the final report and recommendations from the task and finish group on "Social value" which will be presented to the next Policy Committee meeting in May 2017.

9 Policy Committee - Date for next meeting

Following on from item 8 above, Cllr Rob Walker explained that a further meeting of the Policy Committee will be required in early May 2017, to consider and complete the reports on "Social value" and "Passivhaus".

RESOLVED –

Members of the Committee resolved that the Governance Team should contact members of the Policy Committee to confirm the date, time and venue for the next meeting in May 2017.