

Contact Officer: Steve Copley

**KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Monday 8th May 2017**

Present: Councillor Rob Walker (Chair)  
Councillor Andrew Cooper  
Councillor James Homewood  
Councillor John Lawson  
Councillor Hilary Richards  
Councillor John Taylor  
Councillor Judith Hughes

Apologies: Councillor Fazila Fadia  
Councillor David Hall

**1 Membership of the Committee**

Apologies for absence were noted on behalf of Cllrs Fazila Fadia and David Hall.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting on 3 April 2017, were approved as a correct record.

Cllr Rob Walker also offered his thanks to members for their help and support with the work of the committee and its task and finish groups during the 2016/17 municipal year

Members replied by offering their thanks to Cllr Walker for his work as chair of the Policy Committee in 2016/17.

**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 Member Question Time**

No questions were submitted.

**7 Update on 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 report outlined the progress made with the work undertaken in 2016/17, plus the opportunities to build on this with further work with:-

- The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)
- Calderdale Council and the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO)
- Community asset transfers
- Engagement with the third sector and small medium enterprises
- The inclusive growth agenda.

Members of the Policy Committee went on to agree to the recommendations within the report, as set out below

**Resolved**

(1). That the Policy Committee recommends that a report is presented to Cabinet seeking endorsement for the work undertaken by the Policy Committee and its task and finish group on social value in 2016/17

(2). That, as part of (1) above, the report should recommend that a Cabinet Member is identified to take a lead role on a work programme to continue to work towards embedding the social value policy in to our working practices across the council.

**8 Update on Passivhaus**

Following a report to the Policy Committee on 12 September 2016, Cllr Andrew Cooper introduced a revised copy of a proposed policy statement on passive housing.

Cllr Cooper explained that a further meeting of the task and finish group had been convened in January 2017 to consider the concerns raised about the first draft of the document at the Policy Committee on 12 September 2017. These included:-

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- The need for some more scenario planning to check the potential and the timescales involved
- The need for more engagement and stakeholder analysis with those developers, building firms and housing organisations that could be involved in delivering on these changes
- The consequences and implications of promoting the development of passivhaus e.g. reduced energy bills may be possible, but the increased costs of building passive homes could potentially be reflected in the price of those homes and then the increased costs of the mortgage or rents that the owners and tenants may have to pay over the longer term.
- Living in passivehaus homes does require the owners or tenants to adapt their behaviours in order to achieve the benefits and savings.

Members of the Policy Committee discussed the revised document before voting on the proposal to refer it and its recommendations to Cabinet for consideration

Cllr John Taylor raised a few more questions and reservations about the development of the proposals. In summary, these were:-

- The additional building costs that could still be associated with constructing passive houses
- How the costs and funding for these proposed developments will be met, and
- The balance and membership of the proposed steering group which will include representatives of the council, the Passivehaus Trust and other professional bodies. The membership should reflect a range of views and experience in relation to housing development.

News of these will be shared in the report that is presented to Cabinet

### **Resolved**

(1). That the Policy Committee supports the referral of the report and recommendations from the Policy Committee and its task and finish group during 2015/16 and 2016/17 to Cabinet to consider a policy statement on passive housing

(2). That news of the points raised in today's discussion be included in the report for Cabinet