

Contact Officer: Carol Tague

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 10th October 2018

Present: Councillor Rob Walker (Chair)
Councillor Judith Hughes
Councillor Richard Murgatroyd
Councillor Harpreet Uppal

Co-optees Mark Mercer
Andrew Bird

Apologies: Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Martyn Bolt

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7 September 2018.

Matters Arising:-

- A copy of the slide pack used in the recent Kirklees Economic Strategy refresh evidence session be forwarded to members of the Panel.
- A meeting with Housing officers and Councillors Armer and Hughes regarding the Open Age Policy and Local Letting Framework had taken place and a further meeting was to be scheduled.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7 September 2018 be approved as a correct record.

2 Interests

Councillor Murgatroyd declared a personal interest in Item 4 (Update on Social Value / Local Wealth Building / Inclusive Growth) as he was Chair of the Solidarity Economy Network which was a community wealth building project.

3 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

4 Update on Social Value / Local wealth Building / Inclusive Growth

The Panel received an update on the work being undertaken on social value and local wealth building, and links to inclusive growth, in line with the refresh of the Kirklees Economic Strategy.

In introducing the item, David Bundy, Corporate Policy Officer advised that Cabinet had asked for a refresh of the Council's social value policy, with local spend being seen as an important means to delivering social value outcomes locally. The Centre

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 10 October 2018

for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) had been commissioned to provide support. This work had now concluded and a draft report produced.

Tom Lloyd Goodwin, Associate Director, Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) informed Members that CLES were a leading independent member research organisation, committed to progressive economics for people and place.

The Panel were advised that parts of the Kirklees district were within the most deprived areas in the country and the Council was committed to boosting and improving social and economic opportunity to create an inclusive economy.

CLES' work had focused primarily on procurement and spend within the Council. Benchmarking had been accompanied by an analysis of the supply chain and gaps and potential opportunities identified. An analysis of the Council's suppliers and activity of other anchor institutions within the borough had also been undertaken and a number of number of detailed recommendations made.

The key areas of the Panel's discussion and responses to questions are summarised below:-

- Work with anchor institutions was welcomed, but it was also important to develop vehicles to encourage the growth of mutuals and cooperatives within the locality.
- It was vital to encourage alternative forms of supply, as the risk of relying on one major supplier could leave the economy in a non-resilient place if they withdrew.
- The co-production and co-commissioning of services had been referenced in CLES' report with recommendations as to how to move this forward.
- Social care was seen as a key service area and whilst budget constraints were recognised, there was a responsibility on commissioners to consider wider social value, such as good staff terms and conditions as well as cost and efficiency, when tendering and commissioning of services.
- Whilst funding for community groups had been reduced, funding was available through groups such as Power to Change. Opportunities could also be explored for groups within the sector to work together and provide peer to peer support.
- A report would be presented to Cabinet on 5 November 2018, and pending approval, plans would be put in place to shape the work programme and take the recommendations forward. Members were reassured that the recommendations within the report were ambitious and contained practical steps to deliver change.
- CLES' initial benchmarking had provided figures for spend at a regional and local level which would enable further analysis as to influencable spend.
- Brining anchor institutions together was key in accelerating progress and there was a willingness amongst partners, including private sector firms, to engage, share experience and drive forward. An example of this was the recent Picture of Kirklees event attended by partners in the business sector, NHS, schools, colleges and the University.
- It was important to ensure that Members were engaged and provided with updates as to activities, particularly at a neighbourhood level.
- Consideration should be given as to how best to engage small micro- business sector and involve them in this work.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Panel noted the report and thanked David Bundy, Corporate Policy Officer and Tom Lloyd Goodwin, Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) for their contribution to the meeting.
- (2) That an update be brought to a meeting of the Panel early in the new year, alongside an update on the refresh of the Kirklees Economic Strategy.

5 Kirklees Employment and Skills Plan

The Panel received an update on the progress and further development of the Kirklees Employment and Skills Plan. Councillor Peter McBride, Cabinet Member for Economy, Sue Weston, Strategic Partnership Lead (Business and Skills) and Alan Seasman, Theme Lead Place and Inward Investment, were in attendance.

In introducing the item, Councillor McBride, highlighted opportunities presented by large scale projects in housing, rail investment and highway improvements. It was important to ensure that the skills and employment opportunities these projects offered were available to local people and that colleges provided the courses that were relevant to industry need, in order to meet demand.

It was noted that Kirklees was one of the largest manufacturing areas in the country and there was a constant demand to train and upskill staff. Workforce demand, the importance of the care sector and the vast range of skill requirements was also highlighted within the Plan, as was the need to help people get back into work.

The following presentation outlined the context, impact and measurements, priorities, ambitions and actions, alignment and delivery of the local approach, to run alongside the regional plan.

Work on co-producing the Kirklees Employment and Skills Plan had commenced with a Skills Summit held in February 2018. A post 16 Strategic Needs Assessment had been used as part of the information gathering and the data sets used for this were also being used as part of the refresh of the Kirklees Economy Strategy (KES), which demonstrated the alignment between the two.

The Plan was seen as a living document with partners. It provided a strategy for the long term which would contribute to the delivery of shared outcomes. Leadership and collaboration was key and it was critical to strengthen work with partners and businesses.

The high level plan was in place and work was ongoing with partners to develop a more detailed delivery plan, with a target date for completion for by December 2018.

The key areas of the Panel's discussion and responses to questions are summarised below:-

- The importance of collaboration was acknowledged and the Council would seek to work with the economic partnership, once in place, to engage with and understand the needs of businesses.

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 10 October 2018

- The success of the Plan would be measured through the corporate performance monitoring system. The indicator 'disposable income per household' would monitor the impact on all residents who were both in an out of work.
- Work was taking place at a regional level to consider the impact of automation on the workforce.
- A partnership was emerging with the Federation of Small Businesses, Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, University of Huddersfield and Kirklees College to work strategically and join up offers of support.
- The Rail and Road Partnership led by the West Leeds Alliance had both political leadership and private sector engagement. This joint approach had worked well in encouraging partners to come together and was being used as a model for health, construction and creative and digital.
- One proposal for a sustainable model of business engagement, was to have a cluster of representatives from larger private sector businesses and reach a wider set of businesses through thematic discussions that business leaders could buy into.
- Whilst a demand led approach was difficult given that the authority could not control variables in a complex organic economy, it could act as an influencer.
- A Labour Charter had been developed following the Skills Summit in February 2018 and contained a set of generic asks of business eg pay a living wage, take on an apprentice etc. This also linked to CLES' work around understanding supply chains and looking at anchor private sector businesses.
- Trade Union engagement had taken place on the careers learning pilot undertaken in the Leeds City Region,
- A Place Based Tool had recently been shared across the Council which enabled engagement with citizens, including businesses. A pilot had taken place in Golcar and it was hoped to use this learning to inform future work.
- A paper on apprenticeships was in draft and due for completion shortly.
- The challenge of engaging small businesses was acknowledged. It was important to articulate the business benefits such as recruitment, low productivity, efficiency and cost saving.
- A copy of the slides presented at the Summit would be shared with Members further to the meeting.

RESOLVED - The Panel noted the report and information presented and thanked Sue Weston, Strategic Partnership Lead – Business and Skills and Alan Seaman, Theme Lead Place and Inward Investment for attending the meeting.

6 Work Programme 2018/19

The Panel considered a copy of the current work programme for 2018/19.

It was agreed that an additional meeting of the Panel be arranged to consider the Social Housing Green Paper's consultation in relation to fire safety and the following items be scheduled for the new year:-

- An update on the refresh of the Kirklees Economic Strategy and Social Value and Inclusive Growth (January 2019)
- Housing Strategy Implementation

Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel - 10 October 2018

RESOLVED -

(1) An additional meeting of the Panel to be arranged for 31 October 2018 to consider the Social Housing Green Paper's consultation in relation to fire safety.

(2) That the work programme be received and updated, and presented to the meeting of the Panel on 7 November 2018.

- 7**
- Date of Next Meeting**
RESOLVED - That an additional meeting of the Panel would be arranged for 31 October 2018 at 1300, to be followed by the scheduled meeting on 7 November 2018 at 1000 am. Both meetings would take place in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield.