



To: Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board 1

Date: 12th February 2020

Subject: Review of Social Value Policy

1 Purpose of the Note

1.1 This briefing note details the proposed changes to the Social Value Policy.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board 1 are requested to consider this report and the new draft Social Value & Sustainability Policy and make recommendations as appropriate.

3 Information/Background

3.1 The Social Value Policy was adopted by Full Cabinet on the 11th February 2014 and incorporates the Public Service (Social Value) Act 2012 that came into force on 31st January 2013.

3.2 In July 2019 a progress report was taken to Scrutiny Board 1. Following a recommendation of Scrutiny Board, the Cabinet Member (Finance) requested Officers draft a revised Social Value Policy.

3.3 The Social Value Working Group have reviewed the Policy and are proposing a new and extended policy, including an increased focus on Sustainability. It is proposed that the policy is also renamed as the Social Value & Sustainability Policy (Appendix 1).

3.4 Key Changes between the previous policy and the new proposed policy are:

3.4.1 Definition

Further to changing the Policy name from 'Social Value Policy' to 'Social Value and Sustainability Policy', the new Policy's definition has been amended accordingly to also focus on Sustainability. Social value and sustainability are defined as:

The umbrella of 'Economic', 'Social' and 'Environmental' themes, whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst protecting, sustaining and enhancing the environment for the long term.

3.4.2 One Coventry

The current Social Value Policy contains a set of representative and example outcomes that fall under the 'Economic', 'Social' and 'Environmental' themes therefore considering the well-being of Coventry City and its residents. The new

policy outlines how the social value and sustainability outcomes are based on the vision, values and priorities contained in the One Coventry (Council Plan 2016-24). The new Policy confirms that Suppliers, Contractors and Developers should consider the Council's Plan, as well as the social value and sustainability requirements of the individual contract or planning permission they are applying for and how they can align their bid submission/planning application to meet the required outcomes

The current Social Value Policy is very focussed on how Procurement and Commissioning delivers Social Value outcomes, whereas the new Policy emphasises the One Coventry approach, by highlighting that the Social Value and Sustainability outcomes are delivered through three main channels as listed below

3.4.2.1 Procurement and Commissioning

Before commencing a procurement process, the Council considers, how the economic, social and environmental well-being of the City may be improved through the procurement of its services and subsequent third-party contracts.

3.4.2.2 Major Development Project Planning

All major planning applications (as defined by the Town and Country Planning Act) will be asked to develop a social value and sustainability action plan incorporating jobs, skills, supply chain, community & school engagement and sustainability.

3.4.2.3 Anchor Institutions/Partners

Where possible, the Council will collaborate with Anchor Institutions within the city/its Partners and others through it's One Coventry programme, thus identifying key links and work with them on specific initiatives that align with both the Council's and the Partner's individual Social Value and Sustainability outcomes.

3.4.3 Sustainability

The new policy will replace the Council's Energy and Water Management Policy covering a much broader definition of sustainability as demonstrated above. The new policy will ensure that the way we operate as a Council will be as sustainable as possible and help the city to achieve its climate change targets. There will be a number of specific sustainability policies such as 'Energy & Carbon' and 'Single Use Plastics', that will sit under the new Social Value and Sustainability Policy, which support the Council's Social Value and Sustainability outcomes

3.4.4 Living Wage

The new Policy confirms that the Council has committed to pay its' staff directly employed, the Living Wage Foundation 'Real' Living Wage and that we will be encouraging our sub-contractors and partners to also follow our lead to promote this objective.

3.4.5 Adoption of objective measurement/monitoring tools

The new Policy confirms that the Council will look to introduce objective measurement/monitoring tools as well as or instead use of subjective analysis within its procurement processes, where relevant and proportionate. An objective assessment allows tenderers' Social Value commitments to be quantified as a financial value.

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