

Date of meeting: 08 October 2019

Title of Report: **Social Value Policy**

Lead Member: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development)

Lead Strategic Director: Andrew Hardingham (Service Director for Finance)

Author: Philip Symons

Contact Email: Philip.symons@plymouth.gov.uk

Your Reference: PSY030919

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To agree to the revised Social Value Policy as set out in the supporting documents and how this will be applied to the Procurement Service's evaluation and contract award process.

To ensure that the Council's activity on Social Value links to other PCC initiatives i.e. Inclusive Growth Agenda and Planning.

Recommendations and Reasons

That the cabinet approve the Social Value Policy as set out in Appendix A. This will embed Social Value in its decision-making process around how it commissions and tenders its public contracts and how suppliers can demonstrate social value when tendering and subsequently delivering a contract.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The proposal put forward is a significant step change in positive action processes that the council will take to embed Social Value into commissioning and procurement and the approaches that would be applied. The work in development of the Social Value Policy has been informed from approaches applied elsewhere and nationally recognised practices. It takes into account views from officers who apply the current evaluation methods, and input from key internal stakeholders, including, Service Director, Legal Services, Finance, Audit and staff within the Service. As such the proposals within this report are deemed fit for purpose for the future needs of the Council and continued contribution towards the Plymouth Plan and wider legislative obligations.

There is no 'one size fits all' model for achieving social value; organisations nationally are learning best practices from the evidence and results that it provides. The aspirations of this Policy will continue to be informed by national developments and our local learning.

The alternative to implementing the Social Value Policy as set out in the document would be to develop our own measurement tool for the themes set out within the Corporate and Plymouth plan. This option is not recommended as the results from the form part of the Contract award decision weighting. As such the validity of the measurement criteria must be able to withstand scrutiny. The criteria that has been recommended is valid, updated yearly by a government funded taskforce (National Social Value Task Force) and can withstand scrutiny.

It is noted that options other than recommending for approval are available to Members, in particular these would be to propose relevant changes with relevant grounds for those changes or indeed to reject the proposed approach providing with clear grounds and reasons why. Members should be aware that the omission of a social value policy is not an option and its inclusion within the wider contracts award process will aide and support fit and proper use of public funds. In the event of rejection it is requested that clear direction is to be provided to enable necessary adjustments to be carried out.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Social Value Policy will play a fundamental part in supporting the efficient and effective delivery of how the Council advances successful delivery of both the Corporate & Plymouth Plan. The overarching Contract standing orders set out the expected standards and overall governance for all contracts that are let on behalf of the Council with the specific aims of them being lawful as well as delivering value for money in how the Council commercially contracts. The Social Value Policy aims to work within this to provide a robust policy framework to support expectations around economic growth, social wellbeing and environmental matters.

Therefore it is vital that we do all that we can to secure these positive additional benefits over and above the quality and financial value of any contract we procure or commission.

This policy is an important step in helping to further embed the ethos of Social Value within the Council's commissioning and procurement activities and also directly links the commissioning and procurement activities to the strategic themes and policies of the Plymouth Plan.

Through this Policy our ambition is to both meet the expectations of the Social Value legislation but also to exceed it, bringing noticeable positive benefits to the City and our communities.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The Social Value Policy and integral supporting documents will embed alongside the robust governance framework of the contract standing orders to assist the delivery of best value in how the Council contracts with third party suppliers and provide a sound platform for the resulting delivery of those contracts.

As this is a fundamental change there will be the need to undertake necessary communications and training to staff and members around the additional evaluation tools and how best to ensure that the Policy and the wider contract standing orders are complied with. These costs would be covered within existing resource / budgets.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The outcomes from the recommendation of the Policies methods will attribute initiate:

- More programmes to reduce emissions
- Less air pollution from transport
- Green spaces, biodiversity, green infrastructure and public spaces for communities
- Lower Carbon Footprint

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

The social value policy itself will contribute to a number of issues and ensure that the public spend is not only best value but also best for the communities that the council serves. The Policy encapsulates and intends to make positive impacts around subjects such as:

- Child Poverty
- Community Safety
- Health and Safety
- Risk Management
- Social Innovation
- Modern Day Slavery
- Construction Charter
- NEETS

The Policy will enable the council to measure the impact that it and its supply chain is having on a contract by contract basis. This will enable the council to find and apply benefits to the communities in its procurement and commissioning activities, whilst also taking a lead in affecting positive actions upon its supply chain.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
		If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Social Value Policy							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
n/a							

Sign off:

Fin	PL.19. 20.11 9	Leg	MS.25 .09.19	Mon Off	n/a	HR	n/a	Assets	n/a	Strat Proc	KK/PS/5 20/CP/09 19
-----	----------------------	-----	-----------------	------------	-----	----	-----	--------	-----	---------------	---------------------------

Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Andrew Hardingham

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 25/09/2019

Cabinet Member approval:



Date approved: 30/09/2019