

Decision Report – Cabinet decision

– 11th March 2019

Social Value Policy Statement Refresh

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr David Fothergill – Leader of the Council

Division and Local Member(s): All

Lead Officer: Paula Hewitt / Lead Director for ECI and Director for Commissioning

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
	County Solicitor	Honor Clarke	25.02.19
	Monitoring Officer	Scott Wooldridge	25.02.19
	Corporate Finance	Peter Lewis	
	Human Resources	Chris Squire	25.02.19
	Property	Paula Hewitt / Claire Lovett	05.03.18
	Procurement / ICT	Simon Clifford	25.02.19
	Senior Manager	Paula Hewitt	05.03.18
	Commissioning Development Team	Vikki Hearn	
	Local Member(s)	All	
	Cabinet Member	David Fothergill	
	Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr Jane Lock	
	Relevant Scrutiny Chairman	Cllr Anna Groskop	
Forward Plan Reference:	FP/18/07/05		
Summary:	<p>This Social Value Policy Statement, which outlines how the Council will embed social value and demonstrates Somerset County Council's commitment to delivering social value benefits through our commissioning and procurement arrangements, requires a refresh.</p> <p>The policy set out our agreed Social Value priorities and helps commissioners to identify social value opportunities through commissioning and procurement activity. Included in the background section is a link to the current Social Value Policy statement for comparison.</p>		

<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>That the Leader of the Council approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The refreshed Social Value Policy Statement. 2. For the statement to be published as a statement of Somerset County Council’s agreed social value priorities
<p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p>	<p>It is a legal requirement (The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012) for Somerset County Council to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts; and for connected purposes. The Act requires Local Authorities to consider how the services they commission and procure which are expected to cost more than the thresholds provided for in the Public Contracts Regulations might improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.</p> <p>SCC goes further than the legal minimum and expects social value to be considered as part of the commissioning process every time we buy something (procurement) because we see one of our key roles as helping to ensure value for money (including social value) across whole systems. The Social Value Policy Statement is our public commitment to this and was last updated in 2016. Whilst no major changes are required, and only a few additions are recommended, it is important that we regularly review this document and our commitment.</p>
<p>Links to County Vision, Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy:</p>	<p>The Somerset County Council Business Plan states that to address Somerset’s challenges we will demonstrate Social Value and Value for Money in all that we do.</p>
<p>Consultations and co-production undertaken:</p>	<p>The Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG) have contributed to the suggested changes contained within the refreshed document and are happy with retained priorities, as they remain relevant to the organisation.</p> <p>Our Equalities Officer has also been consulted as part of this. He requested the inclusion of disabled people in the first priority, recognising that they are an historically under-employed group.</p> <p>SCG have been asked to share the document with their teams to ensure there are no wider issues, or opportunities that we have not yet explored as part of this refresh. SCG membership covers the following areas of the organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Commissioning • Adults and Health Commissioning • Public Health • Economies, communities and Infrastructure (ECI) Commissioning • Commercial and Procurement • Insurance • Legal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance • Business Change • ICT • Corporate Affairs and Customer and Communities <p>Briefing sessions have taken place with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition. From these conversations and the cabinet pre-agenda meeting the following considerations have been raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider adherence to ISO14001 certification for larger suppliers and construction industry when working with the Council • Consider how can best demonstrate Social Value outcomes and potentially include within the Council’s reporting frameworks • Consider how this Social Value policy aligns to the Social Values considerations within the LEP. <p>These considerations will be picked up as part of the monitoring and implementation of the policy across the organisation.</p>
<p>Financial Implications:</p>	<p>There are no financial implications resulting directly from this policy statement. There may be financial implications and cost savings opportunities on an individual commissioning level as social value requirements and possibilities are explored.</p>
<p>Legal Implications:</p>	<p>Under the provisions of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 (the Act) Somerset County Council is required to consider how the economic, social and environmental well-being of the county might be improved through the procurement of services. This policy statement sets out the Council’s aims in this regard. In particular it seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out a definition of Social Value • set out the social value priorities for Somerset based on our vision and business plan objectives • describe how Social Value will work in practice <p>To help commissioners to meet these obligations and the commitments contained within the Social Value Policy Statement the Social Values Guidance for commissioners and procurement staff will also be refreshed.</p>
<p>HR Implications:</p>	<p>Training and guidance are consistently required in terms of how social value is recognised by staff, promoted within their roles and the work they commission & procure.</p>
<p>Risk Implications:</p>	<p>There is no risk to the council of having a Social Value Policy Statement, but there could be a risk of not having an up-to-date statement that commissioners can follow as they fulfil the commissioning role and responsibilities.</p>

	Not refreshing this policy could result in a lack of understanding of our social value responsibilities and a lack of focus on the importance of Social Value by commissioners.				
	Likelihood	2	Impact	4	Risk Score 8
Other Implications (including due regard implications):	<p><u>Equalities Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct equalities implications resulting from this policy refresh.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment should be completed as part of all commissioning activity within the council. Social Value should be considered within this and can help to manage some of the equality's implications identified.</p> <p><u>Community Safety Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct community safety implications resulting from this policy refresh.</p> <p>An Impact Assessment should be completed as part of all commissioning activity within the council. Social Value should be considered within this and can help to manage some of the community safety implications identified.</p> <p><u>Sustainability Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct sustainability implications resulting from this policy refresh.</p> <p>An Impact Assessment should be completed as part of all commissioning activity within the council. Social Value should be considered within this and can help to manage some of the sustainability implications identified.</p> <p><u>Health and Safety Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct health and safety implications resulting from this policy refresh.</p> <p><u>Privacy Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct privacy implications resulting from this policy refresh.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct health and wellbeing implications resulting from this policy refresh.</p> <p>An Impact Assessment should be completed as part of all commissioning activity within the council. Social Value should be considered within this and can help to manage some of the health and wellbeing implications identified.</p>				

Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):	Not applicable.
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1. Background

- 1.1. Somerset County Council has had a Social Value Policy Statement in place since 2014. This was refreshed in June 2016. The statement outlines our agreed definition of Social Value, how we intend to embed Social Value and our agreed Social Value priorities. A series of examples will be set out in Appendix 2.
- 1.2. Guidance for commissioners and procurement staff to accompany the statement was produced in 2017 and this will be refreshed once Cabinet agreement has been acquired.

2. Options considered and reasons for rejecting them

- 2.1. Consideration was given to creating a new policy, but the Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG) agreed that, in the whole, the priorities are still relevant to the organisation. Additional priorities have been added at the request of SCG to strengthen the environmental elements of the policy.

3. Background Papers

- 3.1. The current Social Value Policy Statement has been used as the basis for this refresh. This can be accessed [here](#).
- 3.2. The refreshed policy statement is attached.