

Somerset County Council

Scrutiny for Polices and Place Committee

– 6 March 2019

Social Value Policy Statement Refresh

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Cabinet Member: Cllr David Fothergill – Leader of the Council

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1. The 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.

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.

- 1.2. 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.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. 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. Scrutiny are therefore asked to endorse the revised Social Value Policy Statement.

3. Background

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. 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.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** 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. 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. He is satisfied that the policy embraces the principles of the equality legislation
- 4.2.** 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:
- Children's Commissioning
 - Adults and Health Commissioning
 - Public Health
 - Economies, communities and Infrastructure (ECI) Commissioning
 - Commercial and Procurement
 - Insurance
 - Legal
 - Finance
 - Business Change
 - ICT
 - Corporate Affairs and Customer and Communities

5. Implications

- 5.1.** There are no financial or equalities implications resulting directly from this policy statement. There may be implications and cost savings opportunities on an individual commissioning level as social value requirements and possibilities are explored.
- 5.2.** 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:
- 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

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.

6. Background papers

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



Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author