

Birmingham City Council

Economy & Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 September 2023



Subject: Employment and skills for young people through the Council's Social Value Procurement

Report of: Rokneddin Shariat, Policy & Governance Manager.

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide information to the Committee on the processes and outcomes of the social value process in the Council.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the responses to the questions asked by the committee at the July '23 meeting.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 No financial implications, information only.

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 No legal implications, information only.

5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
 - 5.1.1 eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;

5.1.2 advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

5.1.3 foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.2 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

5.3 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

6 Appendices

6.1 Responses to questions asked by the committee at the July '23 meeting of the committee

6.1.1 What assurance can be provided that the Council contracts are delivering their social value commitments?

6.1.1.1. The Council's contract managers are trained and informed that they are responsible for delivery of social value commitments.

6.1.2 How is Procurement working with Contract Managers to ensure delivery of social value outcomes?

6.1.2.1. Training sessions have been provided for contract managers to provide knowledge and skills on social value contract management.

6.1.2.2. The Council's social value lead attends contract monitoring meetings of major contracts to support the contract manager where requested.

6.1.2.3. A Teams channel dedicated to sharing the latest information on social value is created to keep contract managers up to date.

6.1.2.4. Support provided by CPS (Corporate Procurement Service) ensures that directorates are involved in the specification of social value right through the process including contract management.

6.1.2.5. Birmingham Audit carried out an audit on the social value mechanism at the Council. A number of recommendations were produced that are being actioned.

6.1.3 *How does this ensure that the contractors deliver added value e.g. the apprenticeships that are created are not just the ones that they would have anyway through the apprenticeship levy?*

6.1.3.1. The commitments from contractors and development partners are agreed during the competitive procurement stage.

6.1.3.2. Commitments must be related to the contract. i.e. not include activity that the contractor would do anyway, regardless of whether they won the contract or not.

6.1.4 *Up to date information / snapshot on the delivery of the top 40 contractors social value commitment with an analysis of this*

6.1.4.1. This exercise was last carried out in FY 21/22. It is a resource intensive exercise has not been repeated since.

6.1.4.2. The Cost of Living programme is in the process of identifying new resources. This resource can be used to provide future updates.

6.1.5 *What are the options to develop a system to monitor social value procurement across the council and timescales to deliver this?*

6.1.5.1. There are a number of solutions available in the market, however each of them have shortcomings that make them unsuitable. All of them have financial implications.

6.1.5.2. CPS is keeping these solutions under review as they develop.

6.1.5.3. Current potential solutions are: Social Value Portal, Social Value Exchange, What Impact, Social Value Engine.

6.1.5.4. A modification had been developed for Oracle but deemed unsuitable because the Council's policy is to use an unmodified version and the technology used was obsolete.

6.1.6 *What can Birmingham learn from other areas of good practice regarding social value procurement and how this is delivered and monitored?*

6.1.6.1. The Council's social value lead is an active participant in: West Midlands Social Value Taskforce, National Social Value Taskforce, Cooperative Councils Innovation Network, Birmingham Anchor Institutions Network.

6.1.6.2. Birmingham's Approach to social value is considered as very mature. This is evidenced by the shortlisting and winning of various awards in recent years. Our advice on social value is often sought by other contracting authorities.