

Cabinet

Supplementary Information



Date: Tuesday, 7 March 2017

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

Distribution:

Cabinet Members: Marvin Rees, Mark Bradshaw, Clare Campion-Smith, Craig Cheney, Fi Hance, Claire Hiscott, Helen Holland, Paul Smith, Estella Tincknell and Asher Craig

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Supplementary Agenda

6. Reports from scrutiny commission

Referral from Resources Scrutiny Commission

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The Resources Scrutiny Commission recently considered a report of the Social Value Advisory Group. The report set out the Social Value Policy one year on and proposed next steps.

The Commission would like to reaffirm the following comments to Cabinet Members:

- I. The Commission Members wish to reconfirm their continued support and the high level of importance of the social value policy.
- II. Members are concerned that SME's still find it difficult to compete with larger ones due to large aggregated contracts which demanded greater financial capability to meet the criteria.
- III. Members commented that small and not-for profit organisations can bring more social value but their accounts / balance sheets are not of substantive value when BCC is assessing an organisations ability to deliver a contract. It was suggested that this type of criteria still demonstrated a continual preference for larger businesses.
- IV. Members recognise that BCC cannot discriminate by geography when awarding contracts. However, concern was raised that opportunities had been missed by not promoting local trade more and it was felt to be vitally important to improve the percentage of SME's that were based in Bristol, as micro-organisations add real social value in the City.
- V. Members of the Commission raised concern about the difficulty experienced by officers in capturing essential information about the geographical locations of supplier's and the need to report through a manual process rather than through electronic means. It was considered that a lack of data is impacting on BCC's ability to understand the full impact of the policy so far and consequently decision making.
- VI. It was noted that there was an opportunity to capture and drive the social value agenda through the Medium Term Financial Plan, making use of flex in financial regulations to set proportional criteria which encouraged and incentivised the local market. Although it is not possible to require suppliers to use the Bristol Pound it could however be evidenced and recognised that use of a local currency could demonstrate social value.