

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 09 March 2021

TITLE	Social Value policy review		
Ward(s)	All wards		
Author: Matt King	Job title: Commercial Systems, Performance & Strategy Manager		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Cheney	Executive Director lead: Mike Jackson		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: This report is seeking approval for a revised Social Value policy			
Evidence Base: Social Value is about seeking ‘Value for money’ in its widest sense, by asking whether every £1 spent on the delivery of services can also produce a wider benefit to the community. Social Value advocates moving beyond making decisions based on financial cost and core quality alone: by also considering wider social benefits (involving people, culture and interactions), economic benefits (such as money flow and financial resources) and environmental benefits (involving the place in which people live, the planet and use of resources) as well. Social Value is therefore not a solution in itself, but can play a supporting role in meeting the Council’s strategic objectives and priorities. The Council’s current Social Value policy (adopted Jan 2019) set out how Social Value should be taken into account when making procurement decisions, and went beyond the Council’s legal obligations as set out in the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 . Since its introduction, the current policy has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured £12m+ of Social Value commitments from procurements since policy launch • Allowed factors such as local employment and spend to be taken into account as part of decision-making • Produced a more consistent and robust framework for comparing Social Value offers from suppliers However, the current policy focusses solely on procurement decisions – whereas considering Social Value could bring benefits to other decisions made by the Council too. The key policy change that’s been proposed in the new Social Value policy (Appendix A) is to seek to expand consideration of Social Value to other areas of Council decision-making, for example grant allocations, investment decisions and regeneration programmes. Feedback received during consultation has been integrated into the new policy, and specifically the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposed expansion to other areas of decision making • choice of policy priorities • emphasis on proportionality, relevance and accessibility when applying Social Value • need to take an iterative approach when applying Social Value to a new area of decision-making In addition:			

- The Equalities Impact Assessment resulted in strengthened consideration of accessibility of the decision-making processes, as well as further emphasis on Equalities impact considerations.
- The Eco assessment led to more accurate targets regarding biodiversity, carbon reductions and waste reuse.

In summary, the new Social Value policy sets out:

- The Council's aims and 10 key objectives when considering Social Value
- The principles and approach that will be taken to incorporate Social Value into wider Council Decision making
- Commitments on expanding consideration of Social Value to new areas of decision-making in order to secure or encourage additional benefits for Bristol.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet

1. Approves the updated Social Value Policy as set out at appendix A

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. The aim of including Social Value in decision making is to take more opportunities to secure objectives in the Corporate Strategy. The areas we focus on in terms of securing Social Value are in-line with the Strategy

City Benefits:

1. This policy on Social Value sets out to promote and secure wider social (including health), economic and environmental (including sustainability) benefits for Bristol's citizens
2. In addition to this, the policy specifically prioritises social value commitments that will promote equality, inclusion, cohesion and fairness in Bristol. This is in line with the drive to "build back better" in the One City: Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy.

Consultation Details:

1. Task and Finish Workshops were held with Members of the Resources Scrutiny Commission. This also included key external representatives.
2. 120 suppliers were invited to give their views of the existing policy, with responses from around 70
3. An invitation was made for the Bristol Equality Network to feed into the policy review process

Background Documents:

- [Public Services \(Social Value\) Act 2012](#)
- [Bristol City Council's current Social Value policy \(adopted January 2019\)](#)

Revenue Cost	£0	Source of Revenue Funding	Insert specific service budget name
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: This report requests approval of the Council's proposed revised Social Value policy. It is not expected that approval of this policy should, in itself, have any consequent cost or benefit impact on the Council's financial performance.
Any decision for which approval is subsequently requested and which adopts the Social Value approach will be assessed and the financial impact will continue to be considered as one aspect within the wider context of the decision.

Finance Business Partner: Jemma Prince, 11 February 2021

2. Legal Advice: By virtue of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, the Council is required to consider, in connection with contracts involving services, how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area, and how, in conducting the procurement process, it might act with a

view to securing that improvement. The authority must also consider whether to undertake any consultation as to the matters that fall to be considered under this obligation. Meeting this obligation is however subject to compliance with broader public procurement and related regulations (as the policy recognises). The Council is free to adopt the same social value principles on other contracts eg works and goods.

In all case however, where contracts fall within the scope of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (which continue to apply notwithstanding Brexit) any requirements, obligations or criteria relating to social value considerations must be linked to the subject matter of the contract (decided on a case by case basis); not confer an unrestricted freedom of choice on the Council; be expressly mentioned in the contract documents or the tender notice, and must not go beyond a proportionate reflection of the Council’s requirements in relation to the contract.

Accordingly, as stated in the policy, the social value element for any contract must be tailored to the contract in question. That said, there is nothing wrong in principle in identifying a target or aspiration for social value in all contracts, provided each is considered on its merits. Subject to meeting these requirements, social value – which can include matters relating to employment (such as apprenticeships, employment conditions etc.), environmental and ecological and sustainability issues (e.g. green energy, renewable resources etc) - may be incorporated in the specification, award criteria and/or contract terms, as appropriate.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews; Team Leader; Legal Services 17 February 2021

3. Implications on IT: No direct impact on IT Services, and we welcome the opportunity to support local businesses and the wider City through an increased measure of Social Value in IT Contracts

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver, 9 February 2021

4. HR Advice: No direct HR implications evident.

HR Partner: James Brereton (People & Culture Manager), 12th February 2021

EDM Sign-off	Mike Jackson	03/02/2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Craig Cheney	24/02/2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off	Mayor’s Office	01/03/21

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO