

CORPORATE RESOURCES ADVISORY GROUP

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Report to Cabinet

Commissioning and Procurement Strategy

Purpose of Meeting

The Group was asked to consider and give its views on the draft Corporate Commissioning and Procurement Strategy 2016-2021.

Summary of Advice

The group:

- Welcomed the proposed approach to commissioning and procurement.
- Expressed an aspiration to maximise the impact of the Council's spending within Gateshead, primarily by sourcing goods and services locally. It was acknowledged that building conditions into longer-term contracts, such as a requirement to recruit apprentices could be explored further however requirements such as this may result in additional costs to the contract.
- Acknowledged that, in some circumstances, it will not be cost effective to deliver services directly and therefore the role of the Council will change.
- Stressed the importance of the ethical framework but acknowledged the potential risks of taking into account non-commercial matters when awarding contracts.
- Recognised that the Council has a duty to award contracts which are considered to be of best value but argued that the strategy should enable contracts to be awarded having regard to demonstrable wider positive impacts.
- Sought assurance that thorough assessments are undertaken as part of the Strategic Commissioning process, to identify and mitigate risks associated with different delivery models.
- Agreed that the sharing of overheads between partners could reduce costs for all concerned and that this should be explored further.
- Requested that the Council continues to participate in the sharing of knowledge and best practice with partners.
- Noted the suggestion by one Councillor that different trading models could be explored regionally, whereby services are exchanged for other goods or services.

PRESENT: Councillor M Gannon (Chair)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: B Clelland, K Dodds, B Goldsworthy, M Henry, M Hood, P Mole, J Simpson, J Wallace, N Weatherley and D Bradford

OFFICERS PRESENT: Neil Porteous Democratic Services
Andrea Tickner Corporate Procurement