

TITLE OF REPORT: Review of Community Wealth Building

REPORT OF: Service Director Corporate Commissioning & Procurement

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek the views of Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the proposed plans for the review of Community Wealth Building.

Background

Gateshead Council have been working with CLES (Centre for Local Economic Strategies) to progress Community Wealth Building (CWB) across Gateshead for some time now with a major focus on further developing our approach to social value.

Community Wealth Building is a new people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy. It uses combined power of institutions, businesses, and communities to retain as much wealth as possible in the local economy, whilst creating local opportunities, new jobs, and new enterprises. There is a particular need to demonstrate that CWB should be understood as one of many tools to help implement and advance the Thrive agenda.

Within the Corporate Commissioning & Procurement Strategy 2022, there is a strong focus on CWB and Social Value outcomes. The aim is to achieve better outcomes for the people of Gateshead through our procurements and by working more closely with officers across the Council including Economic Development and HR.

Scope of the Review

Work has commenced across the Council to undertake various work strands and as part of this review we will focus on:

- Make community wealth building central to Gateshead strategic direction through a CWB strategy
- E-learning modules to be developed on CWB which will be available via the intranet for all staff across the Council
- Review spend analysis of top 100 suppliers to identify where contracts could be delivered locally, addressing gaps in the local supply chain and those opportunities offered to local suppliers
- Explore the development social enterprises through the work of Economic Development

- Improve SME's access to contract opportunities through improving our internet pages and having a more social media presence
- Support the development of a more inclusive economy by working with other organisations to embed CWB through the Community Practice meetings and discussions at Anchor institute meetings.

The Process

The intention is to work with colleagues, partners, and anchor institutions over the next 10 months in order to drive the CWB agenda forward. Corporate Commissioning & Procurement will hold an Evidence Gathering Session in October 2022 where CLES will talk about our CWB work to date and we will review the spend analysis.

In January 2023, we will hold another Evidence Gathering Session with colleagues from Economic Development, HR, and Procurement to discuss their work around employment and skills, the development of the local economy and the CWB outcomes achieved through procurements. Followed by an interim report to OSC in March and a final report in April 2023.

Who will be involved?

Colleagues from across the Council including Economic Development, HR & Communications, as well as external officers from CLES, and officers from Anchor Institutions possibly including Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Gateshead College.

Recommendation

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree:

- The scope, process and timescale as set out in this report

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Progress of the Review

This appendix sets out the standard framework for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to agree and conduct policy reviews and includes proposals specific for this review.

Stage 1

The scope, purpose and intended outputs of the Review should firstly be agreed by the Cabinet and the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The recommendations of Advisory Groups may also be considered if appropriate.

Proposal

- 13th June 2022 - Scoping report to Scrutiny Committee

Stage 2

Evidence may be gathered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee making visits as necessary or inviting persons and organisations to give evidence before it. Relevant Group or Strategic Directors and the Chief Executive will assist the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as necessary. The evidence gathered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be written up by officers.

Proposal

- 24th October 2022 & 23rd January 2023 - To have evidence-gathering events that will involve research, presentations by relevant officers, outside organisations and site visits if appropriate (details to be confirmed).

Stage 3

Officers will then prepare a report on the issue based on the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Officers will submit this report to the next practicable meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to secure agreement that the report is a fair, accurate and complete reflection of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's conclusions.

Proposal

- 6th March 2023 - Draft final report to be considered by the Committee.

Stage 5

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will then present this report to the Cabinet. The Cabinet may take note of the report, approve all or some of the report's recommendations or refer the report to full Council or to an Advisory Group for further consultation.

Proposal

- 17th April 2022