

**TITLE OF REPORT:           Review of Community Wealth Building**

**REPORT OF:                 Andrea Tickner   Service Director   Corporate  
Commissioning & Procurement**

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## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress made and future plans for Community Wealth Building.

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### **Background**

The Council has agreed to implement a Community Wealth Building (CWB) model as one of the tools to support the Thrive agenda. To achieve this the Council have been working with CLES (Centre for Local Economic Strategies).

Gateshead Council is establishing itself as a leading practitioner of CWB. As a fundamental driver of an inclusive economy, CWB aims to reorganise and control the local economy so that wealth is not extracted but broadly held and generative, with local roots, so that income is recirculated, communities are put first, and people are provided with opportunity, dignity, and well-being.

Through community wealth building, Gateshead is advancing its 'Thrive' agenda aspirations and delivering the Corporate Commissioning & Procurement Strategy 2022 to ensure that Council priorities and objectives are met through our procurement activity.

### **Purpose of the Session**

The purpose of this session is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with evidence on what activities have taken place to implement Community Wealth Building. The session will cover updates from both Economic Development and Procurement:

- a. Andrew Tate, Enterprise, and Industry Unit Manager, Economic Development, will be attending the session to give a presentation on the progress of the Local Enterprise Group and its work to support the development of the generative economy.

- b. A representative of North-East Business and Innovation Centre will also attend to give an update on the pilot social enterprise accelerator scheme which is a mechanism to facilitate growth and build capacity within newly created Social Enterprises to address local need.
- c. Janine Copeland will present the new Social Value Toolkit which is used in Procurements over £100k.
- d. Janine will provide an overview of the new Community Wealth Building training module's which is now available to all employees via the Councils Learning Hub on the Intranet.
- e. Janine will provide an overview of progress with Anchor Institutions and what other Councils are doing with regards to CWB.
- f. Improved communications will also be evidenced through the newly developed Corporate Procurement's Intranet and Internet pages, and this will also be presented to the Committee. Corporate Procurement have significantly improved their intranet and internet pages, working with the Councils Digital Team. Improvements include:
  - i. the pages are now more user friendly, with fewer 'clicks',
  - ii. there is now contract user guides containing information on how to use contracts and detailing key contact personnel,
  - iii. a new How to Do Business guide, SME friendly
  - iv. there are links to upcoming tender opportunities,
  - v. there are also links to Economic Development pages and the Gateshead Business Newsletter,
  - vi. Information on Social Value, the toolkit and CWB is include and embedded across everything.
  - vii. improved use of social media platforms to improve SME's access to contract opportunities.

Corporate Procurement have recently appointed a Social Value Coordinator whose employment will hopefully commence on 1 February 2023, using funding from the UKSPF Fund. This role will help the Council further develop our CWB and allocate the social value offers the Council receives. This role will coordinate with suppliers, internal colleagues and VCSE's to ensure most appropriate communities, voluntary organisations or schools receive the most appropriate offers. To date the Council has received £4m in social value offers which are waiting to be allocated, each procurement contains different social value outcomes depending upon the type of the contract. *Appendix 1, Social Value Achieved to Date, gives a breakdown of how suppliers intend to deliver social value under the contract including the value of the social value proposed.*

## **Update on Employment and Skills**

The Council are passionate about recruiting local people and as part of CWB we have engaged with other Anchor Organisations, including Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust (GHFT) and Gateshead College (GC) to address employment related issues and to increase the number of people in employment in Gateshead.

The Council, GHFT and GC will hold a joint Gateshead Recruitment Fair on 8<sup>th</sup> March at Gateshead International Stadium. This event is aimed at promoting the roles and careers within each of our organisations and will include people being offered support to apply and be interviewed for available roles on the day. It will also provide people with detailed information on why they should consider working in each of our organisations. This event will then be followed up with other joint work across our Anchor Institutions which could include joint advertising of roles, joint training and development.

The Council are also working with GHFT and Health Education England on the development and implementation of a joint Health & Social Care Apprenticeship using the Flexi Apprenticeship Scheme. This will enable us to recruit a number of new apprentices who will work across both organisations with the aim of offering permanent roles in both of our organisations and future development opportunities in order to retain these people.

The Council, GHFT, Community Based Care and other VCSE organisations across Gateshead have established Gateshead Cares Partnership to work together to recruit, retain and develop people into across Health and Social care roles across Gateshead.

The Council are also looking at a joint approach across the Northern Integrated Care Partnership on the development and implementation of regional Adult Social Care Academies rather than each local authority area having its own Care Academy. The Care Academy would support the recruitment and development of a well-led, skilled and valued social care workforce across both the Council and our commissioned providers. People would be supported to access roles in social care as well as accessing development opportunities to enhance their skills and qualifications.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended we continue with our efforts to strengthen CWB across Gateshead. The aim is to focus on growing social and environmental benefits into all economic activity.

The recommendations to achieve this are set out below:

- Further develop relationships with Anchor Institutions within the borough including GHFT, Gateshead College, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and Northumbria Police.
- Explore opportunities for collaborating with the Anchor Alliance set up by North of Tyne Combined Authority, to enable us to build on the Anchor Institutions we work with.

- Continue to develop and enhance our approach to social value by working with the VCSE sector, schools, and internal colleagues to maximise social value benefits through future procurement opportunities.
- Continue to develop and grow the generative economy working with local organisations, to ensure that they are fit to compete to maximise their success in future tender and quotation opportunities.
- Continue to work with Anchor Institutions on recruitment drives.

In March there will be an interim report to OSC followed by a final report in April 2023.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- note the arrangements for gathering evidence for the review of Community Wealth Building
- provide their views on the evidence presented.

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