

# **CORPORATE RESOURCES ADVISORY GROUP**

**Thursday, 8 December 2016**

## **Report to Cabinet**

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### **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